

# **NORTHWEST OTTAWA COUNTY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HISTORY**

## **Directory III**

### **Businesses and Industries**



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Title page photograph: Basket Factory in Grand Haven. *Author's collection.*

## **BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES, and OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**1808-1975**

### **In chronological order**

#### **1808 AMERICAN FUR CO. [1808-1834]**

The American Fur Company was the first organized company to influence the economic growth of Northwest Ottawa County, the entire Grand Valley, and other vast areas across the country. Started in Astoria, Oregon, the company was founded by John Jacob Astor in 1808 to compete with the Canadian fur companies. Astor's operation in the Great Lakes was carried on as a subsidiary called the South West Company. The American Fur Company was reorganized in 1817, and in 1834 Astor left the business and new owners took over. The first trader Astor appointed to the Northwest Ottawa County area was a Frenchman, Joseph La Framboise, in 1808. When Joseph was killed the next year in a dispute with an Indian, his Indian wife, Madame La Framboise, took over his trading posts in the Grand River Valley. She was extraordinarily successful, and retired to Mackinac Island 12 years later, a wealthy woman. Astor then hired Rix Robinson to manage the 21 trading posts in the area, including the one in Grand Haven and another at the junction of Crockery Creek and the Grand River. The Grand Haven post was the landing site for the first permanent white settlers, who arrived in the area on November 2, 1834. Although the successor to the American Fur Company thrived for many more years in the West, fur trading in Ottawa County died out as the beaver, the principal animal in the fur trade, became increasingly scarce, and the beaver pelt hat, once so popular in Britain, went out of style.

#### **1834 GRAND HAVEN CO./GRAND HAVEN LUMBER CO. [1834-1846]**

Begun in 1834 by Rix Robinson, Rev. William Ferry, Robert Stuart, and Nathan H. White, the Grand Haven Company's primary purpose was to lay out the Village of Grand Haven, which it did shortly after arrival at the mouth of the Grand River on November 2, 1834. The group also purchased large tracts of land nearby. In addition, the company bought two sawmills at Grandville and hired George and Dexter Ranney and Nehemiah Hathaway to start logging at the mouth of Crockery Creek. The company built a sawmill in 1838 on the Grand Haven side of the river at the foot of Columbus and extending to Fulton Street [Lots 16, 17, and 18]. Because of insecure footings, the mill never went into operation. Franklin Everett wrote, "The Grand Haven Company did business some five or six years, operating in land and lumber; managing to use up instead of making money. At one time a raft of 200,000 [board] feet was lost in the lake; at another, 30,000 logs. On the whole, after spending some \$100,000, the business proving unprofitable, the company disbanded; dividing the property by friendly arbitration, each pocketing heavy losses." By 1846 Rev. Ferry and Rix Robinson were the only stockholders in the company. The mill burned down that year, and the company closed about the same time. The machinery was salvaged, and eventually moved to the Ferry & Son Sawmill in Ferrysburg.

#### **1834 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [1834-present]**

The arrival of Rev. Ferry and his entourage on Sunday, November 2, 1834, marked the establishment of the first church in Northwest Ottawa County. Rev. Ferry's text for his sermon that day was, "For who has despised the day of small things." The church was not formally organized until the next year. Its charter members, beside Rev. Ferry and his family, were Charles, Pierre, and Julia Duvernay; Mary A. White; Caroline White; and Nehemiah and Lucretia Hathaway. Rev. Ferry retired in April 1858 after 22 years as Pastor of the church. Mary A. White organized the area's first Sunday school in an unfinished room of the new Ferry home at the southeast corner of Washington and Harbor, starting in 1835. Her first students were William Montague Ferry II, Thomas White Ferry, and Noah Henry Ferry; Francis, Peter, and Louise Duvernay; and Mason, George, and Galen Eastman. The next year the Sunday school moved to

the new schoolhouse on Second Street [Lot 186]. Mary White was away from the area between 1851 and 1864. Upon her return she resumed teaching Sunday School, and her class included several black students: Emeline and Harvey Blunt, Benjamin Jones, Alex Bowman, and Albert Hicks. Harvey Blunt eventually became a member of the church.

Ministers following Rev. Ferry, who retired in 1857, were David Mack Cooper [1859-1864]; Daniel N. Evans [1866-1869]; Jessie Morris Cross [1869-1871]; John Ross Sutherland [1875-1880]; Henry Webb Johnson [1880-1886]; John Hammit Sammis [1886-1892]; and James A. Kennedy [1892-1902]. None of Ferry's successors came close to matching his longevity, although Albert G. Parker III served fourteen years between 1961 and 1975.

The congregation incorporated as the Presbyterian Church on May 10, 1849, and Pierre Duvernay, Henry Griffin, and Thomas Ferry were elected Trustees. The church adopted Articles of Religious Association on March 15, 1858, and elected Rev. William Ferry the church's first president. He never accepted compensation for his pastoral services. After meeting many years at the community/school building on Second Street across from the Armory, a cornerstone for a permanent church was laid on September 19, 1855 at approximately 212-216 Washington Street [Lot 208], on land donated by Rev. Ferry. The building was dedicated on May 31, two years later. Members of the church in 1872 approved the purchase of a parcel of land at the southeast corner of Franklin and Fifth Streets [Block 15, Lots 1 and 2], Akeley's Addition]. They paid Andrew J. Emlaw \$3,000 for the property, which included sufficient space for a church and parsonage. F. D. Gray of Chicago, who held a mortgage on the Washington Street property, agreed to forgive the balance and donate \$500 in exchange for clear title to the downtown lot, if the transaction could be completed by October 1, 1885. In the fall of that year the church edifice, not quite thirty years old was moved from Washington Street to the new site. It was completely remodeled in 1911, when the steeple was removed, and a tower and vestibule added.

Ground was broken for a new sanctuary on July 4, 1954, during the tenure of Rev. G. Wallace Robertson, and dedicated 17 months later. Robertson led the church from 1952 to 1960. In 1956 the earlier church was razed to make room for a new chapel, and only the stained glass windows were saved.

### **1835 ROBINSON, WHITE, & WILLIAMS CO. [1835-1846]**

In 1835 Rix Robinson, Lucas White, and Dr. Sydney P. Williams formed the second Grand Haven Company, sometimes referred to as Robinson, White, & Williams, as equal partners. The company built a store and warehouse on the banks of the Grand River at the southwest corner of Franklin and Water Streets [Lot 7] in Grand Haven, across the street from the Ferry family's log home and near Dr. Eastman's office. Among other enterprises, the company built and operated the riverboat *Cinderella*, launched at Grandville in 1837. Francis Gilbert was hired as clerk of the company. Either this company or a subsidiary later was known as the Grand Haven Steamboat Company. Little is known about this outfit, except that Lillie gave it credit for building and launching in 1838 the flat-bottomed stern-wheeler *Owashtanong*, which operated at a loss. Thomas W. White was her Captain, and it carried freight between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids.

### **1835 PORT SHELDON LAND COMPANY [1835-1842]**

Port Sheldon was the first town in Michigan founded on speculation. In 1835 some New York and Philadelphia capitalists, who called themselves the Port Sheldon Land Company, purchased about 600 acres of government land around Pigeon Lake in today's Port Sheldon Township for \$1.50 an acre. Presumably the lake was named for the clouds of passenger pigeons which frequented the area and would later be exterminated. The developers arrived in a vessel loaded with provisions, stores, and houses ready to be set up. They brought about 40 men, including

directors, superintendents, surveyors, and engineers. Dr. George Scranton of Eastmanville was hired as the resort's first physician. The group laid out a city of 142 blocks with 22 lots in a block on the north side of Pigeon Lake, where Consumers' Energy later located. Seven lots were set aside for churches, one lot was for a fish market, two for other markets, four for a railroad depot, four for a city hall, and one for a schoolhouse. They had at first hoped to carry out their plans in Grand Haven but were unsuccessful in undermining the holdings of the Grand Haven Company, which owned even the land along the banks of the Grand River.

The Port Sheldon Land Company improved the harbor and built piers. A railroad was laid through the city and into the woods, but with no terminus. Good roads were opened to Grand Haven and Grandville at a cost of \$10,000. The developers spent \$20,000 for a lighthouse, which operated for two years, \$20,000 for a "state of the art" steam sawmill, and additional funds were expended for a beautiful boat and yacht club. Their 60' x 120' 29-room hotel, known as the Ottawa House, was constructed at a cost of \$40,000. It opened on December 1, 1838 with eight guests registered. There was also a \$10,000 office building, a \$10,000 store, and 15 small dwellings.

The second year there were about 300 inhabitants, mostly supported by the Company, when the total population of Ottawa County was reported to be 280. The small opening from Pigeon Lake to Lake Michigan could not be maintained, so ships were unable to dock. In 1838 the Michigan Legislature authorized Thomas C. Sheldon, Thomas Fitzgerald, Theodore Romeyn, E. P. Deacon, and Alexander H. Jaudon [Landon] to seek subscriptions [investments] for \$250,000 as capital to form a Port Sheldon and Grand Rapids Railway Company. A depot was built, and about three miles of track were laid east toward Port Huron. Interestingly, Jaudon purchased 720 acres in Olive Township on August 10, 1841 at the same time he took title to more than 117 acres in Grand Haven Township. Sheldon and the others are not mentioned, although they are noted as buying large amounts of land in southwestern Michigan at that time.

After several years the resort failed. The hotel and 30 lots were sold for less than the cost of the paint and glass used in constructing the building. The imposing pillars later became a part of the Art Museum building in Grand Rapids.

**1836 BUTTS & HATHAWAY SAWMILL [1836-@1868]**

With a loan from David Carver of \$2,000, William Butts and William Hathaway, both Canadians, were able in 1836 to complete Butts & Hathaway Sawmill, the area's first functioning sawmill, on Lots 14 and 15, at the foot of Columbus Street in Grand Haven. Thomas W. White was a blacksmith for the mill. Nathan Throop purchased the steam sawmill and subsequently sold it to brothers Francis and Thomas Gilbert. Butts and Hathaway also built residences on Lots 51, 92, 109, and 218 of the original plat of Grand Haven. Zenas Winsor, who arrived in Grand Haven in 1834 before Rev. Ferry and his family, reminisced about the early days in a paper delivered in observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grand Haven's founding. Among his observations, Winsor said that William and Nehemiah Hathaway worked for the Grand Haven Lumber Company. In 1864 Henry W. Buswell and Charles E. Wyman bought and operated the mill. It burned down in 1868, and Buswell and Wyman built a new mill farther upriver.

**1837 NORTON SAWMILL [1837-1867]**

Colonel Amos Norton constructed the first sawmill north of the Grand River at Nortonville in 1837, near 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Boom Road in Spring Lake Township. The mill burned down in 1854 and was rebuilt. The Nortonville Boarding House, which provided housing and a dining room for the mill workers, was adjacent to the mill. Frederick T. Ranney bought the mill around 1860 and seven years later sold it to Edward Cole of Blenden Township.

**1837 HOPKINS SAWMILL/CUTLER & SAVIDGE [1837-1891]**

Benjamin Hopkins's five sons, Silas, John Vincent, Hannibal, Franklin, and Mordecai became involved in the lumbering business. In 1837 they built Hopkins Sawmill at the north end of School Street [Block 2] in Spring Lake [the "Old" Mill] and built a later one [the "New" Mill] a block east of that in 1845. This mill was torn down in the winter of 1895, and it became the site of the Spring Lake Yacht Club in that organization's early days. In 1857 Hunter Savidge joined Montague & Young as part owner of the Hopkins Mill. The financial depression of 1857 left Savidge as the sole owner of the mill, and the next year he formed a partnership with Dwight Cutler of Grand Haven. With Cutler's capital, the business prospered. In 1870 Cutler and Savidge bought a controlling interest in the Haire & Tolford Mill, located near Lloyd's Bayou, and in the same year the Hopkins Mill property was sold to the Spring Lake Company to become the site of the Spring Lake Hotel. In 1874 Haire sold out his remaining interest in the sawmill. At that time the officers of the company were Hunter Savidge, president; Dwight Cutler, treasurer; Hiram W. Pearson, secretary; and John B. Hancock, director. The Spring Lake mill shut down in 1891, but the company continued as the Cutler & Savidge Lumber Company in Le Roy, Osceola County, and Ontario, Canada. In 1895 Cutler remained president, but William Savidge was vice president and Herman Harbeck was secretary. James A. Wilson was second vice president and was with the company when it moved to Canada. The mill in Spring Lake was converted to the bathhouse for the Magnetic Mineral Spring Company [Spring Lake House] and burned down on the morning of January 4, 1904.

**1837 GILBERT & CO./CUTLER & WARTS [1837-1853]**

Francis Baker Gilbert arrived in Grand Haven in June 1835 with his friend from Massachusetts, Mary A. White, and others. His first job was as clerk for Robinson, White, & Williams, where his brother, Thomas Dwight Gilbert, was secretary. Henry Griffin, in remarks made on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Grand Haven's founding, noted that in 1836 the Gilbert brothers built a "large scow" and were in the "forwarding" business [freight delivery] under the name Gilbert & Co. by 1837. They also built a warehouse on the Grand River, near the northwest corner of Franklin and Harbor [Lot 8]. An advertisement in a July 1851 edition of the *Grand River Times* read: "Storage, Forwarding and Commission Merchants, and dealers in Produce, Lumber, Shingles, Staves &c." In 1853 the two brothers sold their warehouse to Henry Martin of Grand Rapids, who hired Dwight Cutler to manage it. About 1857 Cutler and Henry L. Warts bought the warehouse. Cutler & Warts continued to ship freight and to deal in lumber, shingles, and other similar products.

**1838 SHELDON'S TANNERY [1838-1854]**

The lumbering and mercantile businesses started with the founding of Grand Haven, but the first industry to manufacture a product was Sheldon's Tannery, founded in 1838. In 1837 the tannery's owner, Horace L. Sheldon, built a home on Lot 171 [approximately 211 North Second] and a tannery on Lot 174 [approximately 212 North Second] on the east side of Second Street between Fulton and Elliott. The tannery was taken over by Clark Albee in 1854.

**1841 BARBER & MASON SAWMILL [1841-1882]**

In 1841 Jabez Barber and Richard Mason contracted with John Newcomb to build the Barber & Mason Sawmill at Mill Point, as Spring Lake Village was called then. Like others who came to Spring Lake about this time, Barber and Mason were Canadians who fled to the United States after McKenzie's rebellion was quashed in 1837. Both Canadians had been foundry owners in Toronto, and some of their machinery had been sold to Amos Norton for his sawmill. They built their first mill on the Reserve in Barber's Addition, near the north end of Park Street, on Spring Lake. The next year Barber and Mason launched their first ship, the *Enterprise*. The first mill burned down, and a second and larger one was constructed at the same site in 1853 [1854]. In 1854 Barber lost his life in a shipwreck on his way home from England. His estate's executors, Mr. Lind and Mr. Slater, continued the business until Charles Y. Bell and his family moved to

Spring Lake in 1864. Charles Bell's wife Eliza, Jabez Barber's sister, inherited the mill and Charles managed it. When the second mill was destroyed by fire in 1870, Bell's Mill was built, and it operated until 1882.

**1843 EPISCOPAL CHURCH [1843-present]**

In 1843 Grand Haven was one of many locations on the west side of the state where Episcopal groups gathered for worship. Monthly services were held above a hardware store in Grand Haven as early as 1862. In 1864 the following people, among others, started meeting in the two-story, frame Court House on Washington Street: Isaac and Mary Sanford; Mary Squier, wife of Heber Squier; Mrs Young [possibly Isabel, wife of John A. Young]; Catherine Fletcher, wife of Timothy Fletcher; and Louise McNett, wife of Dr. Jacob McNett. J. Rice Taylor was considered the first Episcopal Rector of Grand Haven, where he served until 1868, the year he was called to formally organize a church in Holland. Locally, St. John's Episcopal Church was recognized as having the oldest church building in continuous use, since worship services had been held at the same location since 1870.

The cornerstone of St. John's Episcopal Church was laid May 10, 1869. The lot on which the church was erected cost \$400, and the original rectangular building and furnishings were priced at \$6,000. Designed by five ship builders, the early church building was a simple structure, a plain, rectangular building with an "inverted ship's design." The church was originally heated by means of a wood stove. Two men stayed up Saturday nights feeding it logs so that the building would be nice and warm come Sunday morning.

Renovation began after St. John's was damaged by fire in 1877. The church was enlarged and given a more Gothic Flair, and a bell tower was added soon afterward. The narthex, sanctuary, basement wood-slab furnace, and ceiling beams were added. Shortly thereafter, the bell tower, complete with a bell supplied by the ladies of the church, was constructed above the narthex.

**1850 EAMES & LUSCOMB MANUFACTURING CO. [1850-1861]**

After a year in Grand Rapids, the Eames & Luscomb Company, founded by Benjamin F. Eames and John W. Luscomb, was moved to Ferrysburg in 1850, just north of where Johnston Boiler later located. The company manufactured woodenware. "Woodenware" generally referred to items made of wood, such as kitchen items, furniture, and ornamental figures. Luscomb withdrew from the business in 1855. In 1856 Eames erected a large building equipped with steam power. He sold it to Willard and Bolles in 1861.

**1850 OTTAWA HOUSE [1850-1860]**

There were two Ottawa Houses in the early years, one in Port Sheldon in the late 1830s, and the other one, owned and managed by Henry Pennoyer, opened in Grand Haven no later than 1850 at the northeast corner of Washington and Water [Harbor] Streets [1 Washington]. By 1856 the newer Ottawa House was a stagecoach stop for travel to Grand Rapids and towns in between. By then Levi Shackleton was proprietor. The hotel burned down on November 1860, and another Ottawa House was built on the northeast corner of First and Fulton Streets in 1867.

**1850 ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH [1850-present]**

In the early 1850s Father Wysocki periodically tended to the needs of Spring Lake's Catholic parish by riding on horseback from his church in Grand Rapids. Later that decade Father Rivers said mass for fifty or so families of the Catholic faith once or twice a year. Among the different homes used for worship was Charles Allen's place, then on the site of Braak's Bakery near the southwest corner of Buchanan and Savidge [110 West Savidge]. In 1866 the first St. Mary's Church was built at 208 Division Street on land donated by Hunter Savidge. It seated 50 people.

The church was not dedicated and named St. Mary's until 1870. An elderly Belgian priest, Father Taaken [Tacken/ Tachen /Taehen], was the first pastor at this new parish.

In 1883 Father James Dalton transferred the parochial residence from St. Mary's to St. Patrick's in Grand Haven, and the Spring Lake church became a mission. St. Mary's closed in 1905, making it necessary for worshippers to attend St. Patrick's. In 1911-12 Father Daniel J. Hyland arranged for two Sunday masses to be said in Spring Lake from July to September. In 1919 land between Exchange and Savidge Streets was purchased for a new church building at 406 East Savidge. Designed to seat 280, it opened in June 1924. Mass now could be offered every Sunday. A rectory was built in 1931. As of 1998 a total of 24 priests had been assigned to St. Mary's Church over the years.

An elementary school was added in 1954.

#### **1850 INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS [1850-?]**

The Grand Haven Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows [IOOF], formed in 1850, was the first civic organization in the area. A group met informally for a time, and then organized officially in 1850. Henry Griffin attended the dedication of the permanent IOOF hall on Washington Street [136 Washington]. The Lodge's first officers were James H. Ferry, Henry Pennoyer, Ebenezer W. Barnes, Dan Vesey, Clark Albee, James Barnes, John W. Barnes, Giles Woodbury, John Hopkins, C. W. Johnson, Thomas White, G. W. Farnham, and Horace H. Hungerford.

#### **1851 THOMAS WHITE MILL [1851 or earlier-?]**

Thomas White built this mill on the north bank of the Grand River near the foot of Division Street in Spring Lake in about 1851. It became Haire & Cole Company in 1867, under the ownership of Robert Haire and Edward Cole of Blendon, four years later it became Haire & Tolford, and the company was bought by Cutler & Savidge in 1874. It was here that the fire of 1871 started, which destroyed much of Spring Lake Village and left 70 families homeless. Cole owned the Blendon Lumber Company, which in 1857 laid a few miles of private logging track in Blendon Township [Section 12].

#### **1851 GRAND RIVER TIMES [1851-1858]**

The area's first newspaper, the *Grand River Times*, made its appearance in Grand Haven on Wednesday, July 2, 1851, reflecting the politics of the Democratic party. James and John W. Barnes, twin brothers, were editor and publisher of the weekly newspaper, and William M. Angel was another principal in the business. The *Times* office initially was above Henry Griffin's drugstore on the northwest corner of First and Washington Streets, where the Story & Clark Piano Company later erected an office building. On January 24, 1855 the newspaper's offices and presses were moved to "the second building below the Washington House" [Lillie], which would put the building at approximately 8 or 10 Washington Street in Grand Haven. Angel evidently had retired by this time, and the Barnes twins sold the newspaper to Galen Eastman in 1857. Eastman published it in Eastmanville for a short time, thinking that the Village would become the county seat. When that failed to materialize, Eastman halted publication and the two Barnes brothers repurchased the newspaper, returned it to the Washington Street address, and renamed it the *Grand Haven News*. The first edition was issued, with the help of a Reuben Fosha, on December 22, 1858. Fires destroyed the business twice, once in 1859 and again in the large fire of 1866. Possibly after the latter fire the newspaper moved back to the second floor of Griffin's drug store. James Barnes left the newspaper business that same year, 1866, to open a furniture store in downtown Grand Haven. The remaining Barnes finally sold the paper to John G. Lee and a Mr. Hitchcock in 1876. Lee, who had published the *Labor Union* in Grand Rapids, started publishing the *Spring Lake Independent* in 1869 in partnership with a Mr. Donald. Lee bought out Donald



not long afterward, and in 1875 H. H. Gibson bought a half interest in the *Independent*, which Lee bought back at the end of the year. Within a short time the Spring Lake paper was combined with Hitchcock's *Grand Haven News*, and in July 1876 the combined newspapers were published as the *News Journal*. The *News Journal* supported the Greenback Party. Hitchcock retired in January 1877. By 1892 Horrace G. Nichols was the owner, and the paper advertised itself as a "*Republican Weekly*."

**1851 FIRST REFORMED [DUTCH REFORMED] CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN [1851-present]**

The First Reformed Church occupied six buildings during its long history, three of which were destroyed by fire at the same location: the northeast corner of Washington and Third Streets [301 Washington]. The early commitment of its congregation made the First Reformed the oldest of the Dutch churches in Northwest Ottawa County. Since 1851, the First Reformed group hung on through relocation, three all-consuming fires, subsequent reconstruction, and occupation of its sixth building.

Prior to its formal organization the church membership met in the home of Jan Van Drunen and in the schoolhouse on Second Street. Other early members were Jacobus Mieras, Abraham Slaghuis, Evert Takken, Mr. Tellman, Gerrit Jan Klaver, Hendrik Brouwer, and Klaus Tromp. Rev. Albertus Van Raalte, founder of the City of Holland, was a frequent visitor to this fledgling congregation. Van Raalte encouraged the group to build a place of worship.

Members built their first church, called the First Dutch Reformed, on North Third between Fulton and Elliott Streets [Lot 254], on land donated for the purpose by Clark Albee. The one-story "slab church," was constructed from waste lumber and measured 12 feet wide by 24 feet long. This site was abandoned for the current location on the northeast corner of Washington and Third Streets, where a 28' by 50' frame building was erected in 1857. The lot was purchased from Rix Robinson for \$275, who soon afterward donated \$200 to the congregation for its new building. Quickly outgrown by a burgeoning congregation, this church soon expanded to twice its original size. The structure was moved in 1870 to make room for a completely new sanctuary, the majestic "Church of Many Towers." The building was 60' by 100' and soared as high as 76 feet. The dome was 16 feet square, and spires rose 18 feet above the edge of the roof.

Not quite two decades later, this third church building, which had been dedicated on May 4, 1870, was destroyed by Grand Haven's catastrophic fire of October 1, 1889. All records were lost in the blaze, so church history predating that fateful day was necessarily incomplete. The congregation replaced the building in a dedication on December 2, 1890, but its lifetime proved to be even shorter than that of the preceding church. This fourth building burned to the ground on June 8, 1907.

Dedicated in May 1908, the fifth church looked much like the one today. Unfortunately, it also followed the tragic fate that had befallen its two predecessors. At midnight on March 24, 1913, the day after Easter Sunday and just eight years after the completion of the fifth church, "tongues of flame eagerly lapped up and lifted to the clouds the building which, with its spire, had all but kissed them," as the First Reformed Church's 75th anniversary book described the scene.

Finishing touches were put on the sixth church just the next year, which was dedicated on September 18, 1914. Once again, the congregation had triumphed over hardship. The Town Clock was housed in the church's tower.

**1851 FERRY & SON/[FERRY & SONS [1851-1871]**

1851 is the accepted date for the formation of Ferry & Son [also known as Ferry & Sons], an enterprise that included sawmills, banking, and retail and wholesale businesses. Lillie recorded that the warehouse built by White & Ferry in 1835 on the river side of Water Street [Lot 9] was sold to Robinson, White, & Williams in 1836, although it was shown on a government map dated

1866 as being the Ferry & Sons warehouse. Ferry & Son was the first retail establishment in Grand Haven, and an advertisement in an 1852 issue of the *Grand River Times* read, “Ferry & Sons, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Hardware, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Crockery and Medicines—also manufacturers and dealers in all kinds of Lumber. Water street [Harbor Drive], Grand Haven. Wm. M. Ferry, Jr. Thos. W. Ferry, Wm. M. Ferry.” By 1850 or 1851 Rev. Ferry and his son Thomas were the principals of a banking business at the same site. Thomas Stewart White was Cashier from 1863 to 1865, followed by Henry G. Bigelow. Daniel G. Garnsey was listed as “Teller” in the 1864 *Map of Ottawa & Muskegon Counties*. The purposes of the banking firm were to purchase and sell domestic and foreign currency, exchange state banknotes at discount, and collect commercial accounts. Deposits were not considered essential to the banking enterprise. The bank was liquidated in 1871 when the First National Bank was formed. Ferry & Sons ran the sawmill, once owned by Butts & Hathaway, at the foot of Columbus Street, which burned down in 1868. In 1855 or 1856 Ferry & Sons bought five miles of private logging “tramway” in Robinson Township. Thomas Gilbert once owned the tramway. Ferry & Sons had a sawmill and shipyard in Ferrysburg, about where Johnston Bros. Boilerworks later was located. The yard produced at least two sternwheelers: *Olive Branch* launched in 1854 and her identical replacement *Olive Branch II* when the original was wrecked the year she was launched, 1854, *Telegraph*, *Amanda*, *Magic*, *Emiline*, *Noah Ferry*, and the propeller-driven *Ottawa*.

#### **1853 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRING LAKE [1853-present]**

A Spring Lake Presbyterian Church Society was formed in 1853 by five local residents: George Lovell, Lemoyne M. S. Smith, Anna H. Smith, Lydia Norton, and Harriet J. Franklin. That same year the First Presbyterian Church of Spring Lake was organized by Rev. H. Lucas, a missionary of the American Homes Missionary Society, and Rev. William M. Ferry of Grand Haven on February 12, 1853. Rev. Lucas became Pastor the next year, and he was replaced by Rev. Joseph Lord in 1867. In 1861 the church purchased from a group of “Hollanders” a building they were constructing at approximately 107 South Buchanan. The Presbyterian and Methodist congregations shared the building until it burned down in 1870. The Methodists then paid the Presbyterians for their half share and put up their own building four years later. Immediately following the fire the Presbyterians met at Barber Street School, situated at that time on Park Street. In 1870 the Presbyterians purchased land for \$600 from Emma Hopkins, widow of Hannibal A. Hopkins. With Sarah Savidge’s contribution, the congregation raised approximately \$10,000 for a new building. This structure, located at 212 East Savidge, was dedicated on January 26, 1874. Across the street, at 205 East Savidge, the Presbyterians dedicated a manse for their minister on November 16, 1906. The church building was damaged by lightning in 1909, and it burned to the ground eight years later, on August 26. This later became the site of the Spring Lake Methodist [Wesleyan] Church. For a matter of months the Presbyterians used the Baptist Church [118 East Exchange] for worship, while they were putting up a new structure at the corner of Church and Savidge Streets [212 East Savidge]. The new church was dedicated on March 7, 1920. In 1956 the congregation bought property at 760 East Savidge from the Trotter family and on February 2, 1958 dedicated a new church at that site, where it remained into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. [*Tribune* article, “SL Presbyterian Church quick facts,” September 13, 2003.]

#### **1854 BLENDON LUMBER CO. [1854-1864]**

The Blendon Lumber Company active by 1854 [1856], when it was owned by Frederick B. Leonard, Thomas C. Brinsmade, and Jonathan E. Whipple, all residents of Troy, New York. They had hired John Ball, a well-known figure in Grand Rapids, to invest their money in profitable mills. The trio sold the company to Edward Cole in September 1866, even though the mill had burned down two years earlier. The company owned more than 200 acres in Sections 30, 31, and 32, of Allendale Township, which included the company’s headquarters at Blendon Landing on

the Grand River. These sections later became part of Tallmadge and Georgetown Townships. Blendon Lumber also owned several sections in Blendon Township. In 1857 the company laid seven miles of private railroad track for the lumbering operation, which started in Section 14 of Blendon Township and ran northeast to Blendon Landing. After the company's sawmill burned down in 1864 the track was abandoned, and by 1876 Blendon Landing and its 200 inhabitants had disappeared.

**1854 ALBEE'S TANNERY [1854-1884]**

Clark B. Albee, who came to Grand Haven from Chicago in 1836 and had a lifelong interest in local civic affairs, took over Sheldon's Tannery in 1854. One hundred men were employed, but it was not a financial success. In 1862 Albee and Giles T. Woodbury, who was a tanner and Albee's partner, were listed as operating the business, which filled the neighborhood with piles of bark. At the same time, Woodbury had a farm and extensive holdings in Allendale Township. The following year Albee sold his commission business, separate from the tannery, to Albert Stegeman. The 1864 *Map of the Counties of Ottawa and Muskegon* showed a tannery on the west side of Second Street between Fulton and Columbus [Lots 133, 134, 165, 166, 167, and 168]. Whether it was located here or further north on Second Street, as Lillie claimed [Lot 174 for the tannery and Lot 171 for Sheldon's residence], the tannery was destroyed by fire in 1865. The loss, including a large amount of bark in the factory's yard, was set at \$20,000.

A contractor by the name of David J. Utter was hired to rebuild the tannery on 50 acres at the corner of Fulton and Beechtree Streets and extending to the Grand River. Utter completed the new building in 1868. At the same time, the vats were reroofed, and the boarding house converted into a currier shop for dressing and coloring leather after it was tanned. This later became the site of the Grand Haven Leather Company [1885] and then Eagle Ottawa [1901]. The disastrous Holland fire in 1871 destroyed the Metz Leather Company and the owners of that company brought their stock to Grand Haven to be finished. Albee continued to operate the tannery, primarily in the manufacture of sole leather. Robert W. Duncan had taken possession of the land by 1876 and held a mortgage on Albee's tannery, which then became known as R. W. Duncan Tannery.

In 1884 the Metz Leather Company of Holland bought Albee's Tannery from the mortgagee, Robert W. Duncan, and used it for the manufacture of sole leather. A fire the next year destroyed it. [See Grand Haven Leather Co., 1885, for more.]

**1855 OTTAWA IRON WORKS [1855-1883]**

Ottawa Iron works was started in 1855 by Colonel William M. Ferry II, Thomas Ferry, and Andrew Thomson in Ferrysburg and built by the firm of Ferry & Chandler at the approximate site of the north abutment for the U.S. 31 bridge. The firm employed 150 men. William F. Parish [Parrish] was Manager. Henry Bloecker, who later had his own shop, worked for the firm from his arrival in 1867 until 1878. Christian Gallmeyer, who became a partner with Bloecker, also was an employee of Ottawa Iron Works until 1878, and William F. Dake worked there as well from 1872 to 1880, when he, too, joined Bloecker. Alexander Rogers of the Rogers Iron Works in Muskegon was Foreman from 1856 to 1857. Ottawa Iron Works had a machine shop and foundry manufacturing steam pumps, stationary and marine high and low pressure engines, propeller wheels, mill gearing, and general foundry work, including iron and brass castings. An invoice dated 1882 advertised that the company specialized in "Sawmill Machinery of All Kinds, Steam Pumps, Stationary and Marine Engines, and Propeller Wheels." In 1880 the plant burned down and was completely rebuilt on land then known as Ferry Gardens. In 1883 it collapsed financially and was abandoned. Four years later Johnston Boiler purchased the new buildings.

**1855 FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH [1855-present]**

The First Christian Reformed church in Northwest Ottawa County started as an independent organization in 1855, with about 25 members. After ten years it became part of the Christian Reformed movement, which was experiencing vigorous growth at that time. Many of the Dutch immigrants naturally joined this church. The first minister was Rev. W. H. Frieling, followed over the next 70 years or so by Koene Vanden Bosch, Klaas. Kuiper, S. S. Vander Heide, W. Groen, and J. G. Van Dyke. Local residents prominent in the church were Derk Groeneveld, Herman Bartels, Cornelis Northouse [Noordhuis/Nordhuis], Andrew Uitermarkt, Gerrit Van Lopik, Jan Van Wyk [Van Wyke], and F. Van Mare. The church officially joined the True Dutch Reformed Church [Christian Reformed Church] on October 9, 1865. Between 1864 and 1867 the congregation met in a small frame building on the southeast corner of Fifth and Elliott Streets. The membership next met at 413 Columbus, and when that building was sold the members in 1872 constructed a new one on the south side of Fulton, midway between Fourth and Fifth Streets [418 Fulton]. The new church did not have a basement, but one was added in the late 1880s. The Christian School used the space for classes, moving from temporary quarters in the basement of Petersen's Store at 530 Jackson Street. In 1893 the school moved to 800 Columbus. The rear access to the church was in approximately the same location as the entrance to Loutit Library, built many decades later. Around 1890 the church was moved to the corner of Fourth and Fulton [approximately 400 Fulton, Lot 1, Block 9, Akeley's Addition]. With 44 steps leading to the front door, in addition to the size of the building, it was not an easy move, even though it was only a third of a block or so, and the structure nearly tipped over at least once. Rev. Klaas Kuiper was Pastor at the time of the move. On May 8, 1955 the church held its first service in a new building located at 516 South Ferry. The congregation had approved purchase of the land in November 1950. [Tribune article, "First at 150," September 9, 2005.]

**1856 JONES SAWMILL [1856-?]**

In 1856 Hamilton Jones erected a steam-powered sawmill, featuring one large circular saw and a siding mill. The Jones Sawmill was located on the banks of Grand River near the foot of Fulton Street in Grand Haven.

**1856 YOUNG, SAVIDGE & MONTAGUE SAWMILL [1856-1857]**

Hunter Savidge's first company, formed in partnership with other principals and named Young, Savidge & Montague Sawmill, was short lived. A financial panic of 1857 forced the enterprise out of business.

**1856 GOODRICH LINE [1856-1933]**

Captain Albert Edgar Goodrich founded the Goodrich Steamboat Line in 1856 at the age of 30. Goodrich had worked for the Ward Line and became a ship's captain. In 1856 he and his friend, George C. Drew, formed a partnership and leased from the Ward Line the side-wheel steamboat *Huron* and started carrying passengers between Chicago, Grand Haven, and Muskegon. The *Huron* was 165 feet long and used cordwood as fuel. Knowledge of the ship captain's reliability spread and business continued to grow. Goodrich bought out his partner in 1861 and became sole owner. In 1881 he absorbed Northwestern Transportation Company, which in 1875 had bought Engelmann Transportation. In 1866 the *Orion*, a wooden side-wheeler, was delivered to Goodrich at a cost of \$68,000. Four years later, on October 16, the *Orion* was stranded on a sandbar and wrecked at the entrance to Grand Haven harbor. Captain William Loutit and his volunteer lifesavers rescued the 61 passengers. Goodrich next purchased the *Alpena* on April 10, 1868 for \$80,000. It sank on October 15, 1880. Among the other ships of the Goodrich Line that visited Grand Haven harbor were the *City of Grand Rapids*, *Alabama*, and *Naomi*. Another ship, the *Christopher Columbus*, was built especially for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. It was 362 feet long and had five decks. It carried nearly 2,000,000 passengers during the six-month Exposition and was still in service as late as the mid-1930s, when she was scrapped. Goodrich

died in 1885, and his son, Albert W., continued the business until 1920, when he sold the line for \$1,000,000 dollars to H. W. Thorp. Thorp filed for bankruptcy in 1932 and the line discontinued service on July 10, 1933. Former President of the Goodrich Line, E. E. Taylor, teamed up with Grand Haven resident Nat Robbins and purchased two of the firm's ships at auction, *City of Grand Rapids* and *City of Holland*. In the summer of 1933, their ships started sailing between Grand Haven and Chicago.

**1857 VYN BROTHERS STORAGE AND TRANSFER/VYN CO. [1857-1940]**

Begun by Derk Vyn as a "one-horse draying business" in 1857, Vyn Brothers Storage and Transfer Company was located at the northwest corner of Third and Fulton Streets, later the location of the Forum Building. At the time the business was bought by Nat Robbins V in August 1927, the company had 13 motor trucks, one tractor, three teams, and a warehouse. Vyn was born in 1830 in The Netherlands. His father, Nicholas who settled in the Zeeland area in 1847, drove the Grand Haven to Holland stagecoach, and Derk drove a coach between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo before going into business for himself. The business begun by Derk grew rapidly when the Chicago & South Shore Railway [later known as the Pere Marquette] came into Grand Haven and necessitated the transfer of freight on to the ferry boats headed for Milwaukee and points west, a service Vyn provided. By 1857 the business had two tugboats, the *Bill Brandon* and the *Captain Tom's Cabin*, which carted freight on the Grand. He had five drays and eight horses in the 1860s and 1870s. The firm, then known as D. Vyn & Sons, advertised itself as "Draymen and General Delivery Agents, Dealers in All Kinds of Fire-Wood and Brick." Derk married Klasstje Trost in 1852, and they had one daughter and five sons: Lambert, Martin, Nicholas, John, and Albert, all of whom worked in the business. Derk retired about 1880 and died in 1911. Martin eventually moved west and Albert sold out his interest. Until 1910 the company was known as the "Five Brothers Express," and in that year it became Vyn Brothers. The company bought its first truck in 1912. To offset the winter slump in business, the brothers bought large tracts of wooded dune land for lumbering purposes, 600 to 700 acres north of the Grand River and another 160 acres near Rosy Mound. The owners built their first warehouse on the corner of Fulton and Third Streets in 1923, replacing the small frame structure on this site. Later they purchased the Challenge Refrigerator Company warehouse. By 1925 the company operated one of the largest fleets of trucks in the state. The company employed 40 men and hired additional crews in the summer months to unload pulpwood from freighters and to handle a large cement business.

After Lambert retired in 1927, the business was incorporated for \$120,000 as the Vyn Company with Nat Robbins, as owner and President; Bernath P. Sherwood II, Vice President; Hugh E. Lillie, Secretary; and John Vyn, Treasurer and General Manager. The company was instrumental in helping organize the Associated Trucking Lines and later became allied with the Eastern Michigan Trucking Association. Lambert's home for many years was located at the corner of Second and Columbus Streets, later the location of the Eagles Lodge at 20 North Second Street. On August 24, 1940 ownership of the business passed to David C. Doyle of Saginaw and Ben and John Zevelkink of Grand Rapids.

**1857 OTTAWA CLARION [1857-1862]**

Henry Clubb started publication of the area's second newspaper, the *Ottawa Clarion*, in March 1857. Publication of the *Clarion*, which supported Republican causes, ceased in the fall of 1862 when Clubb entered the military during the Civil War. Not long after his return to Grand Haven after the war Clubb was elected Alderman, and the next year, 1868, he started publication of the *Grand Haven Herald*, first as a weekly, then as a daily, when it was renamed the *Grand Haven Daily Herald*.

**1857 E. L. FULLER & CO. [1857-?]**

Begun in 1857 by Edwin L. Fuller, a lumberman, Fuller & Co. was an association of lumbermen and bankers and was described as a “banking and exchange business.” The company’s building was on the southwest corner of Clinton and Harbor [Lot 2]. A three-dollar banknote, dated September 1, 1857, was labeled Lumbermen’s Bank and signed by E. L. Fuller. In 1859 the company built a 600-foot dock along the riverbank. Hamilton Jones had a sawmill at the west end of the dock. Two years later the dock was extended to the “Lower Diggings,” later called Government Pond. Fuller’s death in 1866 probably marked the end of the business.

**1858 CUTLER & SAVIDGE LUMBER CO. [1858-1904]**

Although Dwight Cutler and Hunter Savidge became partners in a lumbering business as early as 1858, formal letters of partnership were not drawn until August 31, 1863, and eventually the business became known as Cutler & Savidge Lumber Company. The two men first bought the Hopkins Mill, located on the shore of Spring Lake west of the north end of Main Street [Cutler Street]. They then built a new mill close by on land later known as the Savidge Estate. In 1874 the company purchased an interest in the Robert Haire property on the Grand River, leading to the formation of Haire, Savidge & Cutler. By then the business was processing 50,000,000 board feet per year, and it was large enough that a stock company was organized. The owners had another mill in Ferrysburg, near the location of the later Johnston Bros. Boiler Company, and the company had lumbering interests in other counties, such as Six Lakes in Montcalm County where, in 1882, they laid approximately nine miles of private logging railway. Cutler & Savidge owned land on the Rogue and Flat Rivers, tributaries of the Grand, where much of their timber was harvested. Eventually, the firm milled 65 to 75 million board feet annually, and for many years the company’s payroll totaled \$1,500 per day for 150 men who worked at the mills in Grand Haven and Spring Lake. In addition to milling lumber, the firm also owned several ships, such as the three-masted schooners *David Macy*, the *Hunter Savidge*, and the *Kate Lyons*, used as lumber vessels. The first two vessels were constructed at the Robertson Ship Yard and, at its height, the company employed 450 to 500 men. George Christman, who worked for the company, recalled the eleven and a half hour workdays. He reflected on the time when the employees went on strike in Muskegon and locally, when “gangs of men went up and down the streets yelling ‘ten hours or no sawdust.’” They eventually won the shorter workday. The Cutler & Savidge yard stretched from Spring Lake, where the mill itself was located, to the foot of Division Street and west to the bridge. Much of the ground in that area was built up by sawdust and cuttings.

When Savidge died in 1881, Cutler became President. In 1884 the mill’s dry kiln caught fire, causing extensive damage. With the local lumbering business dying, the Savidge mill closed in 1889. At that time the company bought the White & Friant Mill at Leroy, Michigan, where it produced about 25 million board feet annually until 1893. The business then moved to Cutler, Ontario, Canada, where it closed permanently in 1904. In 1896 officers of the corporation were Dwight Cutler, President; William Savidge, First Vice President; James A. Wilson, Second Vice President; Dwight Cutler I, Treasurer; and Herman F. Harbeck, Secretary. [Partially adapted from *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, written by George W. Hotchkiss in 1898.]

**1858 DETROIT & MILWAUKEE RAILWAY/DETROIT, GRAND HAVEN, & MILWAUKEE RAILWAY CO./GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD [1858-1975]**

A chapter of Western Michigan railroading history was written at mid-day on a Wednesday in October 1979, when the last Grand Trunk Western freight train ever to visit the Tri-Cities area rumbled out of Spring Lake, heading for busier depots and tracks. According to Graydon Meints, in the beginning it was a very small railroad. Chartered in 1834 as the Detroit & Pontiac Railroad Company, it completed its first line in 1838 with service from Detroit to Royal Oak. As authorized by the Michigan Legislature on February 13, 1855, the Oakland and Ottawa Railroad

merged that year with Detroit and Pontiac to form the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad Company. The new company reached Spring Lake on September 1, 1856. Service to Ferrysburg, and Grand Haven was inaugurated on November 22, 1858. The distance from Detroit to Grand Haven was 186 miles. Detroit & Milwaukee Railway Company went into foreclosure on October 24, 1860, and it was reorganized as the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad Company, with the Great Western Railway of Canada taking a controlling interest. In 1878 the line went into receivership again and was sold at foreclosure to the newly incorporated Detroit, Grand Haven, & Milwaukee Railway. The Great Western Railway of Canada retained control until February 1883, when it merged with the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. The company merged in 1928 with Grand Trunk Western.

Grand Trunk Western operated successfully throughout Western Michigan. In 1868 Grand Haven voters agreed to give the railroad company \$52,000 to build a track from Ferrysburg to the foot of Washington Street. As a result, the Grand Trunk Western Depot in Grand Haven, located at Harbor and Washington Streets, opened on January 1, 1870, so that passengers no longer had to be ferried across the river from the railroad village developed at the base of Dewey Hill. Freight trains didn't take advantage of the new track until six months later. The new depot originally included an attached large freight warehouse. To lay track on the south side of the river, train equipment was ferried across, track laid to the shoreline, and sand was brought into the city to make a solid bed in the marshy areas. At the same time the familiar railroad bridge, west of and parallel to the bascule bridge, was built to connect with the new track. New docks were built near the Depot to make connections with steamships headed for Milwaukee and Chicago.

In recent years, railroads fell on hard times in less populated areas. Competition from other modes of transportation, especially cars and trucks, took business away. In 1955 the last passenger train departed from the Grand Trunk Depot, and in early 1975, Grand Trunk Western requested permission to completely abandon 21.5 miles of track from Coopersville to Grand Haven, ending freight service, as well.

**1858 MILWAUKEE HOUSE [1858-1861]**

In 1858 Ernest Andres opened the Milwaukee House, a hotel in the town of Muir at the foot of Dewey Hill. The train depot was then located on that side of the river and ferries carried passengers to the Grand Haven side of the river. The hotel burned down in 1861.

**1858 GRAND HAVEN NEWS [1858-1876]**

The *Grand Haven News* was issued for the first time on December 22, 1858, replacing the *Grand River Times*, which had suspended publication the year before. See the entry for 1851. It ceased publication in 1876.

**1858 SANFORD'S CLOTHING [1858-?]**

Isaac Platt Sanford started a clothing store in 1858 on Washington Street in Grand Haven. By 1882 his son Isaac Hull Sanford was running it. By some accounts, Sanford's was the first clothing store in the area, but evidently Little Joe's "Half Price Clothier to the World" preceded it by at least a half-dozen years.

**1858 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH [1858-1930]**

On April 29, 1858, 16 local residents formed a group called the "Congregational Society of Grand Haven." Captain William Loutit was one of the original members. A year later, on May 31, members dedicated the First Congregational Church, located at 134 Washington Street [Lot 137]. On the afternoon of the same day they installed their first Pastor, Rev. Joseph Anderson, who was given permission to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry as Chaplain in May 1864. The building was destroyed by fire in 1868 and a new one was built on the northwest corner of Washington and Sixth Streets [525 Washington]. The new structure was dedicated on May 12, 1874, while Rev.

John V. Hickmott [Hicknott] was Pastor. Services were discontinued around 1930, and the church was razed in the mid-1930s when the City Hall was built. The church's cornerstone remains embedded in the grass on the west side of the driveway.

**1859 TURNBULL'S BOILER SHOP [1859-1862]**

Thomas Turnbull in 1859 started Turnbull's Boiler Manufactory in a small frame building in Ferrysburg on the banks of Spring Lake, an area called Ferry's Garden. Turnbull's Boiler Shop failed, was abandoned in 1862, and two years later was purchased by Johnston Boiler Works.

**1859 CHAPMAN BROS. [1859-?]**

The Chapman Bros. Company, founded by David and Jacob Chapman in 1859, manufactured brick. The company's location in Spring Lake was uncertain. However, in 1862 they purchased 12 acres in Section 36 of Fruitport Township [Muskegon County], at the "head of the Bayou," where a Mr. Cooley had a brick-making operation. David Chapman also had a farm in Section 31 of Fruitport Township.

**1861 WESTON, DUDLEY & SOULE/SPRING LAKE BRICK MFG. CO. [1861-1874]**

Weston, Dudley & Soule, a manufacturer of clay bricks located on the south side of Cornelius Bayou on Spring Lake and later the site of Joseph Safford's farm, started business in 1861. Hial Grey [Gray] purchased it in 1874.

**1861 WILLARD & BOLLES PAIL FACTORY [1861-1872]**

On March 27, 1861 William F. Willard and E. E. Bolles purchased Benjamin F. Eames's woodenware business in Ferrysburg and converted it to a pail factory. Called Willard & Bolles, the business was located in Ferrysburg on the west side of Spring Lake, and included land later occupied by Johnston Brothers [Block 17, Lots 3 and 4, of the original plat]. Two years later, William and his brother, G. E. Willard, bought Bolles's interest and operated the wooden tub and pail factory until it was destroyed by fire in 1872. The new owners changed the name of the business to Willard & Brother. Benjamin Eames had started the business in April 1851, with John W. Luscomb as his partner. They constructed the frame building and drew power from the Ferry Sawmill. In 1856 Eames erected a larger building and provided his own steam power.

**1862 SPRICK'S [SPRIK'S] LIVERY [1862-?]**

Henry Sprick's livery was located on Second Street near Washington, close to the frame building that served as a school and meeting house for so many years and was the first livery in Grand Haven. He started out in 1862 with an "old buck board and one horse." By 1882 he had 36 horses, 12 single buggies, and four double. He also bought and sold horses. Among his services was providing transportation from the train and ship depots to Highland Park and other resorts for visitors and their freight. The horse-drawn bus went by way of Second Street and out Lake Avenue, which meant the horses had to strain to get up the steep plank street south of Clinton. Sprick died in 1918.

**1862 UNION [1862-1872]**

Healy C. Akeley started the *Union*, a Republican newspaper, in 1862. It was edited and published by Lemoyne M. S. Smith until 1872.

**1862 METHODIST EPISCOPAL/UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN SPRING LAKE [1862-1920]**

Although Methodist Episcopal circuit riders visited Spring Lake in the early years of its founding, it wasn't until 1862 that a Spring Lake Society was formally organized by William Colby. Some of the early members were Daniel B. Thorpe; Emma, wife of Hannibal A. Hopkins; Eva, wife of



Thomas D. Denison; Hattie, wife of William Flanders; Kate, wife of William Britton; and Loren O. Perham. For the first two years services were held in the Park Street School, and then the congregation joined the Presbyterians in purchasing an uncompleted church, started by the "Hollanders," located on the southeast corner of Savidge and Church Streets. When fire destroyed the building in 1870 the Presbyterian congregation sold its half interest in the lot to the Methodists. The Methodists then constructed a new 88' by 60' church on the site, which cost \$7,500, including the basement. A parsonage, built at the same time, cost \$1,200. After the church was destroyed in the major fire of 1893, the members built a new sanctuary at 110 East Savidge Street. The congregation dissolved around 1920. The members liquidated their assets and gave the proceeds to the Grand Haven Methodists, who were then raising money for a new place of worship. One of the first pastors to serve in Spring Lake was James W. Reid, who also served the Methodist Church in Grand Haven.

#### **1862 VANDERBERG FISHERIES [1862-1884]**

The Vanderberg [van der Burght] family, headed by Vincent Vanderberg, fished commercially in the Netherlands before immigrating to the United States. The family business, started in Grand Haven in 1862, moved to Muskegon in 1884. It remained a Muskegon business until the last tug was sold in 1966. The family also owned several fish markets in downtown Muskegon until 1972. One of their fishing ships was the *Pearl*, a steam schooner built by Duncan Robertson in 1874 and piloted by Adrian O'Beck. This vessel took the fishermen farther out in the lake than the smaller boats had allowed. The schooner's engine was built at the Ottawa Iron Works in Ferrysburg. O'Beck was one of the owners of the schooner, along with Henry Fase and Cornelius Van Zanten. The *Pearl* was sold in 1893 and moved to Sault Ste. Marie. Van Zanten and the other stayed in Grand Haven and continued to operate as commercial fishermen.

#### **1862 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS [1862-present]**

The local chapter of "Free & Accepted Masons" was organized on May 21, 1862, as Grand Haven Lodge No. 139. The Lodge received its charter on January 12, 1863. The next month the first officers were "installed and consecrated:" Thomas Lowe, Worshipful Master; George Hubbard, Senior Warden; Mordecai Hopkins, Junior Warden; Robert Howlett, Treasurer; and William Parks, Secretary. Corinthian Chapter, No. 84, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered on January 3, 1873. A large copper coin, labeled "One Penny," was minted and distributed to memorialize its founding. Officers of the chapter were George Hubbard, Charles T. Pagelson, C. P. Selleck, Charles J. Pfaff, Herman Wilson, W. J. Pickering, Henry W. Buswell, G. W. Stone, J. A. Greer, H. H. Mitchell, and R. H. Sinclair. Around the mid-1870s the Masons were housed in the Grey Block, at 16 Washington in Grand Haven and their emblem remains visible at the top of the building. In 1881 a group of Masons decided to organize Grand Haven Council No. 51, Royal and Select Masons. William Harper and Daniel Gale were charter members. This probably was the Lodge that occupied the entire third floor of Robert Howlett's building at 201-203 Washington in the 1880s. In 1917 the Masonic Temple Association purchased the Witherell Building at 232-234 Washington, formerly Cutler House Hotel, and used the upper floors for meetings and functions. For awhile the Masonic Lodge was located at 11 South Third Street, but in 1979 the group erected its own building at 344 Fulton. That year the Association sold the building on Washington to Witherell, Dornbos, Crimmins, & Oakes. The Spring Lake Lodge met at 115 South Jackson. In 1889 the Eastern Star was organized, and the Low Twelve Club was formed on November 4, 1908. In 1912 J. Edgar Lee, Charles W. Cotton, and Lawrence H. vanden Berg were listed as officers.

#### **1863 GRAND HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT [1863-present]**

A Grand Haven fire department was formally inaugurated in 1863 with Isaac H. Sanford as chief; David F. Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> assistant; James Donnelly, Foreman of the Rix Robinson Engine Company;

and John Thornton, Foreman of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company. It was reorganized in 1869. The firefighting equipment, which the crew named "Rix Robinson," was made in Hudson, New York, by the firm of Clapp & Jones; it weighed 5,250 pounds and cost \$1 per pound. A new steamer, purchased in 1877 at a cost of \$3,000, was called the George Parks. By 1892, following the devastating fire three years earlier, the Grand Haven Fire Department consisted of 15 men, half of whom remained at the station, then located at the southwest corner of Washington and Fifth Streets. Their engine was capable of throwing two one-inch streams of water with 100 pounds of pressure. It was pulled by a team of horses. 3,000 feet of hose and various hooks and ladders were available.

**1863 H. RYSDORP & CO./RYSDORP, BOSCH [BUSCHE] & SPRIK [1863-1877]**

In 1863 Henry Rysdorp, Harmon Bosch, and John Sprik combined a barrel stave factory and a lumber mill, enabling them to produce 40,000 barrel staves a day. Johannes Vos evidently was a partner from the start, although his name was not added to the company's title. Originally known as H. Rysdorp & Co., it became known as Rysdorp, Bosch & Sprik. The manufacturing structure was destroyed by fire in 1877, and the firm was dissolved. Two years later Vos and Brouwer built a new sawmill on the same site, on the Grand River east of Grand Haven. Prior to their move to Grand Haven, Rysdorp, Bosch, and Sprik had operated a sawmill at Port Sheldon.

**1863 MILWAUKEE HOUSE [1863-1870]**

The first Milwaukee House, built by Ernest Andres, was located in Muir at the foot of Dewey Hill. It burned down in 1861. Andres opened a new place with the same name in 1863 in Grand Haven on the northeast corner of Franklin and Harbor [Lot 26] in 1863. Ed Killean was the manager. Evidently the hotel closed in 1870.

**1863 W. H. BELL & CO. [1863-1882]**

After Jabez Barber died at sea in 1854, his sister Eliza inherited the real estate and the Barber & Mason business. Eliza's husband, Charles Y. Bell, ran the firm for almost ten years. Then, in 1863, their son, William H. Bell, bought the business at auction, and according to Lillie gave the sawmill his name, W. H. Bell & Co. When the second mill was destroyed by fire in 1870, Bell's Mill was constructed and operated until 1882.

**1864 JOHNSTON BOILER WORKS/JOHNSTON BROS. BOILER WORKS/JOHNSTON BOILER CO. [1864-present]**

Johnston Boiler was founded as Johnston Boiler Works by John Watt Johnston, a direct descendant of James Watt. He purchased the defunct Thomas Turnbull Boiler Manufactory in Ferrysburg and started a machine and boiler shop. In 1880 John Johnston retired, and his sons James B. and Thomas Johnston took over management. In 1887 the company purchased the more recently constructed buildings of the Ottawa Iron Works, which had failed four years earlier. The property was owned by members of the Ferry family. The Johnston company made boilers for ships constructed at the Hiram C. Pearson Shipyard, also in Ferrysburg, and Ottawa Iron Works supplied the engines. In 1891 fire destroyed the plant. The brothers rebuilt immediately. A fire on June 6, 1917 again demolished the factory and again the brothers constructed the building now standing at 300 Pine Street.

In 1898 the Johnston Brothers produced the first all-steel tug, the *C. J. Bos*, and on May 25, 1907 the company launched the passenger steamer *Mackinac*, also made of steel, and in 1925 it manufactured *Eveline*, a metal ferry boat that in 2019 continued to transport people and vehicles from Ironton to Charlevoix. Fire destroyed this building in 1917, and Johnston Brothers rebuilt on the same site. In the early days the firm employed about 20 men, growing to 60 by 1895. In 1891

the name was changed to Johnston Bros. Boiler Works. In 1896 the company's annual output exceeded \$100,000. In 1950 office space was added to allow for expansion of the boiler industry.

The story of Johnston Bros. was one of a basic product being adapted to changing economic and technological needs, from sawmill boilers to marine boilers to contractors' equipment. Heating boilers and packaged units, either oil or gas fired, were produced to meet shifting demands, including the production of water backed fire tube boilers since 1870. The company later made equipment used for offshore drilling purposes. Johnston boilers were used in the construction of the Panama Canal in 1907, in the building of the Mackinac Bridge in the mid-1950s, and in the production of pile-driving power for oil drilling platforms. From 1864 to 1974 the company was owned and managed by four generations of the Johnston family. It was bought by Stone International, Limited, of England, and in 1987 by Hines Corporation of Muskegon. In 1998 Hines purchased Stickle Steam Company and moved all production to Ferrysburg the next year. Johnston products were used in food processing and automobile and computer chip manufacturing.

The company experienced another extensive fire on July 9, 2022, but the building was saved.

**1864 WYMAN, BUSWELL & CO. SAWMILL. WYMAN & CAIRNS SAWMILL [1864-1884]**

In 1864 Charles E. Wyman and Henry W. Buswell formed a partnership and began operation of the Wyman & Buswell Sawmill. [Lillie cited both 1864 and 1866 as the starting date of the partnership. However, 1864 was the more likely date since the 1864 *Map of Ottawa & Muskegon Counties* showed the mill in place at that time.] That same year they bought the Ferry & Sons Mill at the foot of Columbus Street. When that structure burned down in 1868, they erected a new mill the next year a little farther up the river, not far from the footings at the south end of today's U.S. 31 bridge. The new mill had one circular saw, a "gang" edger, trimmer, and lathe. It employed about 35 men. In addition, the company had timber interests in Montcalm and Newaygo Counties, where they opened a mill on the Muskegon River at White Cloud in 1869 and maintained railroad track for their logging enterprise. By 1878 Averill T. Cairns was part of the company, which by then was called Wyman & Cairns. After the mill was destroyed by fire in 1884, Buswell retired.

**1864 BROOM MANUFACTORY [1864- ?]**

On November 28, 1864 an advertisement in the *Grand Haven News* announced the opening of a new business owned by two young men, Herrick Kamhout and Joseph Godhardt of Grand Haven. The ad proclaimed, "BROOMS! BROOMS! We, the undersigned, have just established a Broom Manufactory in Grand Haven, on Third Street, near Dr. [Jacob] McNett's residence [300 Franklin Street]. We are unfortunately BLIND, and desirous of earning at least a living by honest, patient industry." The ad concluded, "Remember the unfortunate," and was signed by the owners.

**1864 METHODIST EPISCOPAL/UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN GRAND HAVEN [1864-present]**

In 1835 a Methodist circuit rider came to Grand Haven to conduct services, but at that time there were not enough Methodists to start a Society. The *Grand Haven News* on September 28, 1859 announced that a Rev. Hall had been in Grand Haven the previous week to serve as minister. The next year he was appointed to meet the religious interests of Methodists in Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg. However, there was still an insufficient number of worshippers to establish a Methodist church. In 1864 Edward and Anne Gatfield, recently arrived from Racine, Wisconsin, gathered other Methodists worshippers in their home, including William Beardon, Mrs Drummond, Mrs Landon, Frederick and Isabella Graves, Jerry Miller, and Harrison and Emily Dee. This group made up the first Methodist Society in Northwest Ottawa County. On June 9, 1873 the Grand Rapids District of the Michigan Conference formally certified the First Methodist

Episcopal Church of Grand Haven. Trustees elected to the Board were Rev. Jamies H. Bignell, Cyrus H. F. Biggs, Nelson R. Howlett, William Beardon, and John W. Ker. That year Rev. James W. Reid was reappointed to his post as Pastor of the Spring Lake Methodist Episcopal Church, and he simultaneously served the new organization in Grand Haven. At first the congregation met in members' homes, but soon they started to hold their Sunday afternoon meetings at the Ottawa County Court House. In 1878 Rev. J. P. Force was the first pastor appointed to serve Grand Haven only. The next year the congregation built its first house of worship, a small, frame structure lighted with kerosene lamps and heated by a wood-burning stove. It was constructed on the site of the later Loutit Library [407 Columbus]. Ten years later the building was destroyed in the massive fire of 1889. A new church was dedicated on June 15 the next year in the same location. The new building had a brick veneer, a large auditorium, and a small lecture room. About this time the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church was begun, later to be known as the Youth Fellowship. A Ladies Aid Society already was underway to organize Church-wide events and to raise money for special purposes. A long-term split among three groups across the country was healed by a "declaration of union" on May 10, 1939, and the word "Episcopal" was dropped. As a result of that merger, the Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in September 1940. By 1918 it was clear that the congregation needed yet another and larger church. The building on Columbus was purchased by the Bereans, who later sold it to the Nazarenes. A new site was purchased on the southwest corner of Washington and Fourth Streets, later the location of the Post Office. During construction, the Methodists rented space from the Unitarian Church, the Congregational Church, and the Christian Reformed Church. The new brick building was dedicated on January 28, 1923. It cost approximately \$25,000 to build and was considered "Grand Haven's most modern example of church architecture." The mortgage was paid off by January 1944. In 1927 the Men's Club of the Methodist Church was formed with Charles E. Misner, Josh C. Lehman, Fred H. Gillard, Nicholas F. Yonkman, Arthur W. Elliott, Paul Taylor, and Herbert W. Smith forming the Executive Committee. The name of the group changed to the Men's Brotherhood and then to Methodist Men. The church suffered a fire on January 14, 1946, but the damage, though extensive, was reparable. In 1933 Rev. John Clemens was appointed to serve the Grand Haven church and the church in West Olive. It wasn't specified when those duties were again separated. Jamies Bignell and his wife, members of the Methodist church, on August 4, 1940, donated 15 acres of land on Stearns Bayou to be sold by the church and the proceeds used to bring down the debt. In 1944 the church paid \$2,000 for the Dr. Willard B. Bloemendahl residence, located on Fourth Street next to the church, and rented it for \$15 a month. Eight years later the nearby Vander Wall house was purchased for \$2,800, along with a small 29' by 38' parcel behind the Woman's Club, with the hopes of future expansion. In 1950 the church bought the Edward Huttenga house at 316 South Seventh Street to be used as a parsonage. However, the church, instead of expanding on its current site, bought a 10-acre parcel from the Hofma Estate in November 1956. The acreage lay west of Sheldon Road, where Slayton Street ended. A gift of land in 1964 from William and Virginia Vivian widened the drive into the church property. The cornerstone of the new church at 717 Sheldon Road was put in place on September 18, 1960 and on February 19, 1962 the first service was held in the new building, a week after the last service was held at the Washington Street church. In January 1963 Central School suffered a destructive fire. The Methodists offered the Grand Haven School Board the use of the building on Washington Street for as long as necessary and at no cost. In December 1966 the bell from the old church was given to Central School to replace the one that had been lost in the fire. The Washington Street church was sold to the United States Government on October 8, 1964 for \$20,000. Nine years later the mortgage for the new building was paid off. The year before two parsonages had been bought, one for the Senior Minister at 14639 Lakeshore Drive at a cost of \$45,500, and the other for use by the associate minister at 547 Waverly for \$24,000. The house at 316 South Seventh Street was sold to Christian Haven Home for \$19,000. In March 1969 the congregation adopted the name "The United Methodist Church of the Dunes."

Over the long history of the church many pastors were called to serve. Among the early ministers were W. W. Rork, who was pastor in 1884 when the first parsonage was bought; following him were C. A. Varnum, Hipp, Bennett, Thomas, Calkins, Horner, Shier, Mullen, Merrill, Tanner, Kruse, Wilson, Bowerman, Minor, Maxwell, Skinner, Large, Chandler, Jordan, Clemens, Boldrey, and Carl Strange in 1950. Among the community people who helped organize the church and nourish its subsequent growth were Joshua C. Lehman, who was Superintendent of the Sunday School for 53 years; Leah Bell Lyman, Deaconess and teacher of religion; Stephen Mead and Everett Husted, who in 1940 organized Boy Scout Troop #5 at the church; Truman and Wilbur "Ted" Husted; Ralph Van Volkinburg; Peter De Boe; Kenneth C. Retzlaff; and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bullerdick.

**1865 OTTAWA BOOM [BOOMING] CO. [1865-1890]**

The Ottawa Boom Company was founded in 1865, with Dwight Cutler I and Hunter Savidge as principals. Officers were William M. Ferry II, President; Henry T. Bell, Secretary; Dwight Cutler, Treasurer. Captain Robert Howlett was listed as Secretary in 1865, and in 1876 his son Nelson held the same title. Thomas Friant joined the company in 1869 when he was 25 years old and ran the business for the next 20 years. The Booming Company sorted and moved cut timber down the Grand River to the designated mills to be converted to lumber. The company was located on the Grand River near its confluence with Deremo Bayou. By 1876 it owned more than 187 acres in Section 26 of Grand Haven Township, bordering the south side of the Grand River.

**1865 HUGHES & CASS PHOTOGRAPHY [1865-?]**

Lillie gave Hughes and Cass credit for opening the first photograph studio in Grand Haven in January 1865.

**1866 GRAND HAVEN & SPRING LAKE BRIDGE CO. [1866-?]**

In October 1866 the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors approved a 30-year charter for construction of a toll bridge over the Grand River. The span was to extend from the end of "Sawdust Road to Mill Point." Tolls were set at 15 cents for a double team and vehicle, a single team and vehicle was 10 cents, horse and rider 5 cents, and animals were two to three cents each. The charter may have been granted to the Grand Haven & Spring Lake Bridge Company with capital of \$30,000, divided into 300 shares sold at \$100 each. Dr. Stephen Munroe was one of the shareholders. [Lillie p. 313 and an anonymous, undated article titled "Doctor Stephen Munroe, 1813-1890." Before the bridge was constructed, Peter La Belle in 1852 was licensed to provide the ferry service between Spring Lake and Grand Haven. The fare was three cents until 1856, when he successfully petitioned to raise it to a nickel, with tickets for fifteen fares or more available at three cents each.

**1866 STORRS & CO. MILL [1866-1875]**

Carlton L. Storrs built a sawmill on the banks of the river near downtown Grand Haven in 1866. Known as Storrs & Co. Mill and also as the Red Mill, it was destroyed by fire nine years later.

**1866 PEARSON'S SHIPYARD [1866-1872]**

Harrison C. Pearson [Pierson] sold his shipyard in Ogdensburg, New York and in 1866 came to Ferrysburg to start a new shipyard. Pearson's Shipyard employed up to 100 ship carpenters at times. Located just north of Johnston's factory, the company-built schooners and tugboats, using engines produced by Ottawa Iron Works and boilers by Johnston Boiler Works. The first ship he built, under consignment for William M. Ferry II and Captain Heber Squier [Canfield Tug Line], was the 14-ton propeller-driven tug *Hunter Savidge*. Other vessels were the 14-ton propeller *Col. Ferry*, built in 1867 for Leon Smith, *et al*; *F.M. Knapp*, a 344-ton schooner built in 1867 for Henry Liesk; *Major N. H. Ferry*, a 152-ton schooner built in 1867 for Brice A. Miller; *R.P.*

*Mason*, a 169-ton schooner built in 1867 for John Leish, *et al*; *Michigan 3d*, built for Michigan Barge Company in 1868; *Laketon*, a 147-ton propeller, built in 1868 for W. Mitchel, *et al*; *William H. Browne*, a 39-ton propeller, built in 1868 for J. Fisher; *Joseph Heald*, a 38-ton propeller, built in 1873 for Charles Waiteman, *et al*; and *Alice E. Getty*, a 44-ton propeller, built in 1883 for Barney, Wilds, & Co. Pearson invented a solar attachment to the surveyor's transit and improvements to the propeller wheel, along with many other creations. Fifteen years after Pearson's closed in 1872, the Spring Lake Clinker Boat Company was organized and took over Pearson's patents. Harrison's son Charles Alton Pearson was one of the principles in the new company. In 1913 Klaus Katt of Spring Lake built a shipyard on the site of Pearson's Shipyard.

**1866 ALOYS BILZ HARDWARE/BILZ PLUMBING AND HEATING [1866-present]**

The long-lasting Aloys Bilz Tin & Hardware store opened in 1866, very near the Bilz plumbing and heating business later located at 304 West Savidge. Bilz lost his hardware store and all he owned in an 1871 fire but was able to rebuild shortly afterward with a \$10,000 loan for Hunter Savidge. A 1903 invoice noted that Aloys Bilz was a "Dealer in Hardware, Furniture, Agricultural Implements, And Sporting Materials." At that time a wheelbarrow cost \$1.45, a thousand brick could be bought for \$8.50, and hatchets ran 50 cents apiece. Richard Cook and Daniel Downs, who later purchased the Bilz business, in 1998 bought the Bilz residence at 107 South Division with the intent of converting it to office space.

**1866 JAMES BARNES FURNITURE STORE [1866-1904]**

James Barnes [Barns] came to Grand Haven in 1846 at the age of 23 and with his twin brother, John, started the *Grand River Times* in 1857. In 1866 James left the newspaper and opened the James Barnes Furniture Store at 121 Washington Street in Grand Haven. The store changed owners in 1904, when John J. Boer and Sons took over.

**1866 F. D. VOS GROCERIES & PROVISIONS [1866-@1910]**

With John Fuite as his partner, Frederick D. Vos started the F. D. Vos Groceries & Provisions store in 1866. Six years later, Fuite dropped out, and Vos advertised himself as a dealer in "Groceries, Provisions, and Family Supplies. Fruits, Confectionery, School Materials, also Crockery, Glassware." His store was located at 603 Fulton Street in Grand Haven.

**1866 UNITED STATES CUSTOM SERVICE [1866-1913]**

Healy C. Akeley was the first Collector of Customs assigned to the Grand Haven office, beginning in 1866. The jurisdiction of the office included the west half of the lower peninsula and the south half of the upper peninsula, until 1913, when the headquarters was moved to Detroit in a move to consolidate all the Michigan offices. Akeley was followed by Dudley O. Watson, who served from 1885 to 1889 and again from 1893 to 1897, George W. McBride, who filled the office from 1889 to 1893, George A. Farr, from 1897 to 1906, and Walter I. Lillie, from 1906 to 1913. Lillie was the last Collector at the Grand Haven office.

**1866 ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH/GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH [1866-present]**

Also known as the German Lutheran Church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in Grand Haven on April 8, 1866. German-born Rev. John Daib of Grand Rapids was the first Pastor. Services were in German. A sanctuary was constructed in 1867 at the northwest corner of Franklin and Sixth Streets [531 Franklin] on a lot donated by Rev. William Ferry. A basement was added in 1883, and a steeple and bell tower were added twelve years later. Among the charter members were Charles Pagelsen, John Zietlow, John Seitz, Henry Saul, Henry Baar, William Dehn, Henry Wasch, and Christian Minck. Rev. Frederick W. Spindler, also a native of Germany, followed Rev. Daib in 1871. The church building was razed in the early 1970s and a new one constructed at 525 Taylor, where St. John's Lutheran School had been located since at

least the mid-1950s. The land on Franklin Street was acquired by nearby St. John's Episcopal Church. [Tribune article "GH church sees old windows again," September 15, 2004.]

**1867 HOPKINS & FERRY SAWMILL [1867-1871]**

John W. Hopkins and Colonel William Ferry II started construction of a sawmill in the spring of 1867, using machinery made at the adjacent Ottawa Iron Works. Called the Hopkins & Ferry Sawmill, it was located in Ferrysburg at the northwest junction of Spring Lake and the Grand River, was sold in 1871 to Batchellor, Slaght, and Shippey of Chicago, who sold it to the Grand Haven Lumber Company in 1881. Both Batchellor and Shippey became residents of the area.

**1867 MECHANIC'S DRY DOCK & SHIPYARD [1867-1886]**

Established in 1867 by Thomas W. Kirby, John W. Callister [Calister/Collister], and John Neil, Mechanics Dry Dock & Shipyard was located on the north bank of Harbor Island in the Grand River and included floating docks. In 1881 \$200,000 was spent for repairs and expansion to the yard. By then it had four dry docks, capable of raising 300-ton vessels. The 230-foot steam barge *H. C. Akeley* was built at Mechanic's in 1881 at a cost of \$110,000. This vessel was lost in a storm off Saugatuck two years later. Another boat constructed here was the *Charlotte Gray*, a 12-ton propeller, built for Mr. Cook. The shipyard also was referred to as Thomas W. Kirby's.

**1867 ROBERTSON & CO. SHIPYARD/GRAND HAVEN SHIP BUILDING CO. [1867-1894]**

Started in the fall of 1867, Robertson & Co. Shipyard was owned by Scotsmen Duncan Robertson, Paul McColl, Peter Sinclair, and Captain John Budge. Located on a triangular spot of four acres on the south bank of Grand River near the north end of Second Street, the business employed 35 to 70 men. The *City of Grand Rapids*, a 206-ton, propeller driven vessel, was built in 1879 for Hannah, Lay & Co. *H. C. Hall*, also propeller driven, was another vessel built by Robertson's, as was the *Ionia*, owned and operated by Captain William Loutit. Another boat, built for Cutler, Savidge, & Company and named the *Hunter Savidge*, was launched in 1879 [1878]. It foundered in a storm on August 20, 1899, with the loss of five lives, including the pilot, Captain Sharpsteen, and his wife. The *Savidge* was 117 feet long and 27 feet across. In 1881 the shipyard owners made repairs and improvements to the facility at a cost of \$47,500. One of its last boats was the 160-foot wooden-hull steamboat *Pentland*, built for William R. Loutit in 1894. The following list of other vessels that came out of this shipyard was taken from the *1893 Compendium*:

- 1869 *R.M. Maria*, 35-ton propeller, built for C. T. Burnham.
- 1870 *City of Grand Haven*, 230-ton barge, built for H.V. O'Brien.  
*Robert Howlett*, 157-ton schooner, built for William Tremper, *et al.*
- 1871 *Wolverine*, 195-ton barge, built for Michigan Barge Company.
- 1873 *Henry F. Brower*, 30-ton propeller, built for W.E. Richards, *et al.*
- 1874 *Dwight Cutler, Jr.*, 24-ton propeller, built for a Mr. Oterling.  
*E.C. Oggel*, 25-ton tug, built for A. Fisher.  
*J.W. Johnson*, 25-ton tug, built for Thomas W. Kirby.  
*Ottawa*, 163-ton schooner, built for William R. Loutit.  
*Pearl*, 24-ton propeller, built for Adrian O'Beck [Obeke] & Company.
- 1875 *Mary Ellen Cook*, 174-ton schooner, built for John R. Cook, *et al.*  
*Stewart Edward*, 18-ton propeller, built for Thomas Stewart White, *et al.*
- 1876 *Tempest*, 283-ton propeller, built for White, Dalton, & Co.
- 1877 *Agnes*, 9-ton propeller, built for a Mr. Hitchcock.
- 1878 *David Macy*, 192-ton schooner, built for Dwight Cutler, *et al.*
- 1879 *Claude*, propeller, built for Thomas Stewart White, *et al.*  
*Peter Dalton*, 47-ton propeller, built for E.P. Dowling, *et al.*

- 1880 *Charlie J. Gnewnch*, 37-ton propeller, built for A.O. Wheeler, *et al.*  
*N. McGraft*, 11-ton propeller, built for Muskegon Booming Company.  
*Stephen C. Hall*, 447-ton propeller, built for F.W. Gilchrist, *et al.*
- 1881 *Albert Soper*, 410-ton propeller, built for L.B. Fortier.  
*George P. Savidge*, 29-ton propeller, built for Joshua Smallman.  
*Charles A. Street*, 268-ton barge, built for William H. Loutit.
- 1882 *Charles E. Wyman*, 234-ton schooner built for C.E. Wyman, *et al.*  
*George D. Sanford Jr.*, 51-ton propeller, built for J.W. Zimmerman.  
*White & Friant*, 290-ton propeller, built for Charles T. Brown.
- 1883 *Bruce*, 11-ton propeller, built for R. Ford Lumber Company.  
*Carrie A. Ryerson*, 58-ton propeller, built for Henry Jacobs.  
*Homer E. Reeves*, 11-ton propeller, built for James A. Travis.  
*I.M. Weston*, 95-ton propeller, built for D. Whitney, Jr.  
*Lou Cummings*, 62-ton propeller, built for Gen. Robertson, *et al.*
- 1884 *Lizzie Walsh*, 37-ton propeller, built for Jay McCluer.  
*Thomas Friant*, 81-ton steamer, built for Reuben Vander Hoef.  
*Duncan Robertson*, 37-ton tug, built for George W. Miller.
- 1885 *Nellie*, 21-ton steamer, built for E. Bradley.
- 1886 *Alice M. Gill*, 264-ton barge, built for William Gill & Sons.  
*Thomas R. Scott*, 268-ton barge, built for John Lang.  
*Peter Coates*, 53-ton tug, built for Coates & Arnold.
- 1887 *Mary H. Boyce*, 812-ton barge, built for Munroe, Boyce & Company.  
*A. Meister*, 35-ton tug, built for Adrian O’Beck and Cornelius Van Zanten.
- 1888 *Mary A. McGregor*, 812-ton barge, built for Munroe, Boyce & Company.  
*Charles Augur*, 37-ton tug, built for Fisher Brothers.
- 1889 *Sachem*, 739-ton barge, built for William H. Loutit.
- 1890 *Ionia*, 1,287-ton barge, built for William H. Loutit.  
*Frank Edward*, 40-ton tug, built for John Zietlow.  
*Crescent*, 71-ton steamer, built for H.G. Webb.  
*E.M.B.A.*, 60-ton tug, built for L. Coates.
- 1891 *Henry Troy*, 45-ton tug, built for Henry Troy.  
*Frank B. Geiken*, 55-ton tug, built for John Geiken.  
*Alice*, 45-ton tug, built for Smith & Sons.  
*Major Dana*, 65-ton tug, built for Thompson, Smith & Sons.

The *Compendium* also credited Robertson with launching thirteen “steam yachts,” ranging from three to eight tons, whose names were not recorded. In the *Compendium* the company name appeared as the Grand Haven Ship Building Company, with Duncan Robertson, Manager, and John Budge, Secretary. Its specialty was building, rebuilding, and repairing “Tugs, Fishing Boats, Yachts and Launches.”

#### **1867 GLOVER & BALL FACTORY [1867-?]**

The Glover & Ball Factory started to manufacture carriages at a shop on Second Street in 1867. Martin Glover and R. Ball were the owners.

#### **1867 IRON WORKS/GRAND HAVEN IRON WORKS [1867-1881]**

Started in 1867 by Frank Spencer and Archibald Brown, the Iron Works was located on Lot 85 on the northwest corner of First and Elliott Streets [approximately 201 North First]. The business was taken over in 1871 by James Lewis, Otto Gronberg, and John Bryce. The new owners renamed their business Grand Haven Iron Works and enlarged the facility. About 1878 Henry Bloecker left the Ottawa Iron Works in Ferrysburg and bought out Gronberg’s interest. The old



buildings burned down on May 1, 1881, and partners John Bryce, Henry Bloecker, and Christian Gallmeyer erected new facilities and renamed the business Bryce, Bloecker, & Gallmeyer.

**1867 OTTAWA HOUSE [1867-?]**

Located on the northeast corner of corner of First and Fulton Streets [105 Fulton, Lot 92], Ottawa House was built in 1867 by Mathias Pellegrom and managed by James Donnelly. Pellegrom later bought the business and was still running it in 1893. The structure was a three-story frame boarding house, measuring 54 feet by 50 feet, with 20 bedrooms and a large office. Lillie stated that the hotel was built in 1868. At least two other hotels in the area had the same name. One was in Port Sheldon in the late 1830s, and the other one, owned and managed by Henry Pennoyer, had opened in Grand Haven by 1851 at the corner of Franklin and Water [Harbor] Streets.

**1867 EMLAW SAWMILL/EMLAW, BOYCE & STORRS SAWMILL [1867-1881]**

Andrew J. Emlaw in 1867 built the Emlaw Sawmill on the north bank of the South Channel in Grand Haven. When Sherman Boyce and Carlton Storrs joined him as partners, the name was changed to Emlaw, Boyce & Storrs Sawmill. In 1881 the Grand Haven Lumber Company bought this mill, along with three others. Emlaw continued as an officer with the new company.

**1867 HAIRE & COLE SAWMILL [1867-1871]**

Thomas White built a sawmill on the Grand River near the foot of Division Street in Spring Lake about 1851. It became Haire & Cole Co. in 1867, under the ownership of Robert Haire and Edward Cole of the Blendon Lumber Company. Four years later Cole sold his interest to William D. Tolford of Grand Rapids, and the company was renamed Haire & Tolford. The fire of 1871 started here, destroying much of Spring Lake Village and leaving 70 families homeless. In 1874 Cutler & Savidge bought the business.

**1867 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SPRING LAKE [1867-present]**

The first Baptist organization in Spring Lake was formed on December 7, 1867 by Cyrus B. Raymond, Phineas Baldwin, Moses Brown, William Penn, Benjamin Campbell, William Brown, Mary E. Raymond, Lorinda Lee, Jane Hancock, and Mary Ann Brown. Rev. James Monroe was hired as their first pastor in 1868 at a salary of \$600, and in the same year the congregation paid \$300 for a lot on the southwest corner of Exchange and Meridian Streets [Lot 4, Haire, Tolford, & Hancock's Addition], and there they constructed a church. The charter Board of Trustees of the church included Hunter Savidge, Robert Haire, and George Hancock. The George Christman family was among the community leaders who supported the Baptist faith. The church building was lost in the fire of 1893, and a new one was built on the same site at a cost of \$2,500. The First Baptist Church of Spring Lake continued to meet at its site at 118 East Exchange into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**1867 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH [1867-present]**

Members of the First Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven built their first church, a small, frame building at 413 Columbus, in 1867. The janitor, Mr. Uitermarkt, had the task of lighting each Saturday evening the two stoves that provided heat to the church. It took all night for the building to get warm enough for services the next day. Services began at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and lasted three hours. Five years later the building was moved to 606 Jackson, where it was sold to an African American congregation. The church then constructed a new church mid-way between Fourth and Fifth Streets on the south side of Fulton in 1872 [approximately 418 Fulton]. The new church did not have a basement, but one was added in the late 1880s. The Christian School used the space for classes, moving from temporary quarters in the basement of Petersen's Store at 530 Jackson Street. In 1893 the school moved to 800 Columbus. The rear access to the church was in approximately the same location as the entrance to Loutit Library, built many

decades later. Around 1890 the church was moved to the corner of Fourth and Fulton [400 Fulton, Lot 1, Block 9, Akeley's Addition]. With 44 steps leading to the front door, in addition to the size of the building, it was not an easy move, even though it was only a third of a block or so, and the church nearly tipped over at least once. Rev. Klaas Kuiper was pastor at the time of the move.

**1867 ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH [1867-present]**

Priests had visited parishioners in Mill Point and Ferrysburg as early as 1850. The first local church building was erected in 1857 in Ferrysburg. In 1859 Father Takken held mass there for the first time. A year later he became the first resident priest of a new Roman Catholic parish and church building in Mill Point [Spring Lake], which served Catholics from Grand Haven and Ferrysburg until 1872 [see St. Mary's Church, 1850]. Worshipers south of the Grand had to go by rowboat to visit either of the churches on the north side. About 20 Catholic families in Grand Haven formally organized St. Patrick's Church in 1867. Among the first pastors to serve St. Patrick's were the Reverends T. J. Murphy, who oversaw construction of the first church in Grand Haven in 1872-73, M. Dalton, Ed Caldwell, T. J. O'Conner, H. P. Mans, and Daniel J. Hyland, who served from 1911 to 1948. Community people who helped in the formation of the church were Captain Thomas W. Kirby, Captain John Furlong, David Hanrahan, Pat Doherty, James McCarthy, Jerry Haggerty, Richard Connell, John Golden, and William Gleason. The church from that point on was located in the 800 to 900 block of Fulton, opposite its original site. The church in Ferrysburg was no longer mentioned.

**1867 MICHIGAN BARGE CO. [1867-?]**

The exact starting date of Michigan Barge Company is lost, but it was begun by Galen Eastman, who lived from 1829 to 1899. Later Captain Thomas W. Kirby and John Furlong combined to form the Kirby-Furlong Barge Company. Michigan Barge Company owned the vessel *New Era* in 1867, *Michigan the 3d* in 1868, *Mary Amanda* in 1869, *Wolverine* in 1871, *Callister* in 1873, and *Transfer* in 1874, all built locally. Michigan Barge was directed by Captain Kirby for 13 years.

**1868 GRAND HAVEN CONCERT BAND [1868-?]**

The original members of the Grand Haven Concert Band, formed in 1868, were George Miller, Stewart White, Nathaniel Slayton, George Hubbard, Dr. Arend Vander Veen, Will Fordham, Sawin Gale, Sheriff Bailey, Henry Thomas, James Brayton, James Stephenson, Chid Duvernavy, David Rose, Cornelius De Vlieger, and George Saxton. Their fee that year for playing at the Fourth of July Celebration was \$200. In 1870 the band raised money to construct a frame building on the northwest corner of Franklin and Second Streets, later the site of the Armory.

**1868 WINSOR [WINZOR] COAL, SALT & CEMENT CO. [1868-?]**

Zenas Winsor, who had been a clerk for Rix Robinson since at least 1834, opened the Winsor Coal, Salt, & Cement Company in 1868. He also was an agent for the Chicago and Grand Rapids Steamboat Line, and later for the Goodrich Transportation Company.

**1868 CITY FLOURING MILLS [1868-?]**

In 1879 George Forrest came to Grand Haven and purchased the City Flouring Mills for the Forrest Brothers Company, which had several similar mills throughout the country. He remained to manage the mill. The engineer was Orson Vanderhoef, who moved to Grand Haven from Ohio. The business was housed in a three-story frame building constructed by the Forrest Brothers on the west side of South Second Street, just off Washington. City Flouring Mills started business in 1868.

**1868 MUNROE, THOMSON LUMBER CO. [1868-1872]**

Stephen L. Munroe and John Thomson formed Munroe, Thomson Lumber Company in 1868. Their sawmill, located near the north end of Jackson Street in Spring Lake [Block 2, Bryant's Addition], had been built by Dr. Stephen Munroe the year before. Warner Vos also had a financial interest in the business. After the mill burned down in 1872, Sherman H. Boyce bought out John Thomson's interest, and the name of the firm was changed to Munroe, Boyce & Co. Stephen L. Munroe was Dr. Munroe's nephew.

**1868 MUSKEGON & FERRYSBURG RAIL ROAD COMPANY [1868-1869]**

The Muskegon & Ferrysburg Railway Company started to lay 17 miles of track between Muskegon and Ferrysburg in 1868. Lyman G. Mason was President, Frederick A. Nims, Secretary and Attorney, and Major Davis, Samuel R. Sanford, A. Rodgers were among the directors. The company merged with Michigan Lake Shore Railroad Company on September 29, 1869. The line started carrying passengers in December 1869 and was the first railroad to go into Muskegon.

**1868 GRAND HAVEN HERALD [1868-1885]**

Henry S. Clubb started publication of the *Grand Haven Herald* in 1868, first as a weekly publication, then as a daily. The newspaper leaned toward Republican politics. In 1872 M. M. Lewis published a newspaper called the *Weekly Herald*, but it evidently was not related to Clubb's publication, which was sold to Charles N. Dickinson on December 7, 1872. Dickinson in turn sold it about three months later to S. L. Morris. Morris sold a half-interest in the paper to Crimins H. Du Bois [Dubois], who became editor and by 1875 had full ownership. Du Bois sold it to Whitman Stoddard Benham in 1877, who continued publication until he lost his life in the wreck of the *Alpena* October 15, 1880. [Lillie noted that Benham bought the paper in 1873.] Early in 1881 Guy Weber purchased the newspaper from the Benham estate, and Horace G. Nichols joined him as partner. About March 1881 they sold their interests to the firm of Kedzie & Company, consisting of Andrew S. Kedzie and his son Donald, with Adam becoming the editor. The new owner advertised the paper as being "STEADFASTLY REPUBLICAN, EARNESTLY REFORMATORY."

**1869 MICHIGAN LAKE SHORE RAIL ROAD CO. [1869-1878]**

On February 5, 1869 the Michigan Lake Shore Rail Road Company was incorporated in Grand Rapids with a capital of \$500,000, with the intent of operating 22 miles of track between Ferrysburg and Holland, primarily for logging purposes. A few months later it merged with the Muskegon & Ferrysburg line and the Allegan & Holland line to form the Michigan Lake Shore Company. Ransom Gardner of Kalamazoo was President, A. J. Kellogg of Allegan was Secretary and Treasurer, and George Goss, also of Allegan, was Supervisor. The line between Muskegon and Ferrysburg was opened in December 1869, and the next August service was open from Muskegon to Allegan. The first engines burned wood as fuel, and great piles of it could be seen along the tracks where the engines stopped and loaded their tenders. The company was sold at foreclosure on October 15, 1878 to the Grand Haven Railroad Company.

**1869 CHICAGO & MICHIGAN LAKE SHORE RAILROAD CO. [1869-1878]**

On April 23, 1869, a company was organized at St. Joseph, Michigan and called the Chicago & Michigan Lake Shore Railroad Company. Its purpose was to build a railroad from New Buffalo northward along the western shore of Lake Michigan. The work of laying the track began in St. Joseph. The grading was rapidly carried southward from there and on February 2, 1870, the road was completed to New Buffalo. Subsequently it was built northward from St. Joseph, being completed to Grand Junction, in Van Buren County, on February 28, 1871, and to Pentwater on January 1, 1872.

In the next few years Chicago & Michigan merged with other railways, such as the Lake Shore Railroad Company of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids & Lake Shore, and others. The company went into receivership on November 11, 1876 and two years later was sold at foreclosure to Chicago & West Michigan.

During the early years railroads often operated at a loss. They depended upon lumber shipments and found it difficult to compete with the lake boats as a means of transporting the milled wood. The Chicago & Lake Shore ran up a deficit of \$466,815.76 in the three years it was in operation between 1869 and 1872.

**1869 GRAND HAVEN COURIER JOURNAL [1869-1891]**

Dr. Mary Kitchel stated in her *Centennial* book that the *Grand Haven Courier Journal* was founded in 1869, although the February 1897 issue of *Headlight Flashes*, distributed by the Chicago Railroad Publishing Company as “a handsome souvenir edition,” cited the year as 1868. In any event, Horrace G. Nichols bought this weekly newspaper and the *Grand Haven Daily Tribune* in 1891. The *Courier Journal* claimed it was “Republican In Politics.”

**1869 MILLER & CO. HARDWARE [1869-1871]**

After working in George Hubbard’s hardware store for several years, George W. Miller went into partnership with his brother-in-law, John Stark, and opened Miller & Company Hardware at 202-204 Washington in 1869. Since the Akeley Block was constructed at this site in 1871, it is possible the hardware store went out of business then.

**1869 SPRING LAKE INDEPENDENT [1869-1876]**

John G. Lee started publishing the *Spring Lake Independent* in 1869 in partnership with a Mr. Donald. Lee bought out Donald not long afterward, and in 1875 H. H. Gibson bought a half interest in the newspaper, which Lee bought back at the end of the year. Not long after that, the *Independent* was combined with Hitchcock’s *Grand Haven News*, which in July 1876, was published as the *News Journal*. Hitchcock retired in January 1877.

**1869 WHITE & FRIANT & CO. SAWMILL [1869-1881]**

In 1869 Thomas S. White and Thomas Friant bought the Norton Sawmill on Grand River at Nortonville from Frederick Ranney, who had owned it for two years. The new owners operated the mill as White & Friant. In 1881 the Grand Haven Lumber Company bought this mill, along with three others.

**1870 FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SPRING LAKE [1870-1971]**

The First Reformed Church of Spring Lake was founded on March 20, 1870, when members split away from their mother church in Grand Haven in order to avoid the cumbersome trip across the Grand River. The original members of the splinter group were Ate [Otto] and Egberta De Witt; Reender Reenders; Hesse and Willemje [Minnie] Osterhoff [Oosterhof]; Thys Stadt; R. Hovinga; W. Busje; Anne and Derkje Mulder; Jan [John] and Jane Langeland; Arend and Caerting Hietbry; Jantje Visser; and Dina Kuiper. They built their first church the same year, a 32’ by 50’ structure located at 210 Summit, which was dedicated in September even though scaffolding was still in place and they organized a Sunday School. Their first pastor was Rev. James De Pree. Five years later the congregation was able to purchase a parsonage for De Pree. John Huizenga was the first church janitor, hired for \$35 a year. His duties included cutting all the firewood needed to heat the building. The church was enlarged in 1885 with an addition of 20 feet, which included a basement. Not long after that, as the lumber business went into decline, church membership dropped from 130 families to 90 in six years, and by 1895 it was down to 70 families. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the economic climate had improved, and membership started growing. During the next ten years a pipe organ was installed, the basement was enlarged, and a new parsonage

was built. In 1913 electric lights were put in and the church was redecorated. By 1916 the church was debt free and still growing. In the late 1920s several lots were purchased on Exchange Street as a site for a new church building. The depression delayed construction, but the church still was able to make several gifts to nearby organizations, such as \$110 to Hope College, \$110 to Western Theological Seminary, and \$15 to the Anti-Saloon League.

Finally, in 1938, a new sanctuary at 225 East Exchange was completed at a cost of \$41,000, with \$25,000 of that amount already in the building fund. The remainder was paid off by 1945. The stained glass windows were gifts from members in memory of their loved ones. The new building included a new organ. This building later became the parlor of Christ Community Church. In 1949 members John Kruizenga, Gerrit Bottema, and Henry Kammen built a parsonage. In 1958 an educational wing was added to the church, followed by a new sanctuary in 1978, and an administrative wing, pastoral suite, classrooms, library, and chapel in 1990. In 1971 the name of the church was changed to Christ Community.

A Ladies Church Aid Society was formed in 1927 for the purpose of raising funds for special projects, and there was a series of young people's group called the Christian Endeavor Societies. A host of pastors served the church over the years, after Rev. De Pree left in 1880. Among those were J. Zwemer, R. H. Joldersma, M. Kolyn, G. J. Hekhuis, A. Zwemer, B. Hoffman, S. C. Nettinga, H. Frieling, J. J. Van der Schaaf, H. Mollema, Cornelius Lepeltak II, and S. C. De Jong, who left in 1941. Richard A. Rehm served from 1960 to 1964, returned in 1970, and was Pastor until his retirement in 2004. During his tenure the congregation adopted the name Christ Community Church in 1971.

**1870 SPRING LAKE SALT CO. [1870-1871]**

Professor Alexander Winchell, a geologist from the University of Michigan, was the guest of Spring Lake resident and businessman Hunter Savidge early in 1870. Winchell believed that there were salt deposits under the entire state. With that impetus, Aloys Bilz, Hunter Savidge, Allan Adsit [Adzit], and Robert Haire founded the Spring Lake Salt Company. This business was located next to Hunter Robbins's estate on the Hopkins Mill Site, north of Liberty Street [Block 2 of the original plat]. The owners bought drilling equipment from the Hopkins and Hancock Sawmill and commenced boring for salt. Instead, they found magnetic mineral springs at a depth of 200 feet. The company disbanded and next year the same group of four built the Spring Lake House, a beautiful mineral spa, to take advantage of the spring's medicinal effects.

**1870 NATIONAL HOTEL [1870-1881]**

Phillip Rosbach [Rosback] built the National Hotel on the southeast corner of Columbus and Harbor [Lots 19 and 20] in 1870 and ran it for several years. He paid \$3,500 for the lots. The swampy conditions made it necessary to drive piles deep into the ground to establish a firm foundation. Michael C. Carpenter, who had operated a boarding house and farm in Nunica, became owner and manager of the hotel in 1881. By the 1890s, or earlier, Rosbach was managing the Kirby House.

**1870 SPRING LAKE MAGNETIC MINERAL SPRINGS CO./SPRING LAKE HOUSE [1870-1916]**

The discovery of magnetic waters in 1870 led to the formation of the Spring Magnetic Mineral Springs Company, with Walter G. Sinclair of Spring Lake as Secretary. The company erected the Spring Lake House on the site of the magnetic waters, located roughly between Cutler and Rex and north of Liberty Street, and extending to the shores of Spring Lake [600 West Liberty, Block 2 of the original plat]. Just to the west was the Cutler and Savidge Sawmill. The hotel, which costs \$70,000 to build in 1871, consisted of 74 rooms, with another 30 rooms in adjoining cottages, providing room for 250 guests. Bowling and billiards were also offered. The grounds

were made attractive by the addition of fountains, flowers, shade trees, and a well-trimmed lawn. The bathhouse, built over the spring, was nearby. Owners claimed “Bathing in this water is a luxury. It is perfectly cleansing without soap, and remarkably strengthening.” However, a letter printed in a Grand Haven newspaper on July 4, 1872, shed a different light: “Your correspondent visited the famous Spring Lake well a few days since, swallowed some goblets of the brackish water which is pumped out of the bowels of the earth for the healing of Spring Lakers. They seem to consider it a solemn duty to drink large quantities of the stuff, and to insist that they like it. Most of them get so they can swallow it without making faces, but all look very serious as they gulp down the slightly salty, insipid liquid.” [“The Saratoga of the West,” by John Dryhout, Quarterly Journal of the Great Lakes Historical Society, Fall, 1964.] The Savidge family was the primary owner of the resort. In 1880 fifty new rooms were added. An announcement that year alerted potential guests, “This Charming Summer Resort, one of the most delightful in the Northwest, is situated two miles from Grand Haven, from whence, as well as from Chicago, it is easy of access, either by rail or water. The Tourist has very attraction and amusement afforded—pure air, fine scenery, Fishing, Rowing, Sailing, Steamboating, Hunting, Etc.” The flyer added that Dr. Cyril P. Brown was in attendance and that Captain Jonathan Soule would meet the boats in Grand Haven and take passengers to and from the hotel. In the early 1900s Edwin C. Dyer bought the resort and managed it. The hotel was destroyed by fire on June 16, 1916.

**1871 FERRY & WHITE/WHITE, GLOVER & CO. [1871-1877]**

William M. Ferry II, Samuel C. Glover, and John White, of Ontario, Canada, started construction of the Ferry & White sawmill in October 1871, at the east end of Fifth Street in Ferrysburg [Lot 22]. The mill burned down on July 4, 1877, the same year White and Glover bought out Ferry.

**1871 BAKKER SAWMILL/DERK BAKKER & SONS SAWMILL/D. BAKER & SON LUMBER [1871-present]**

Derk Bakker and his brother Jeltze started the Bakker Sawmill in 1871 on the south shore of the South Channel at the foot of Third Street, near the railroad tracks and just south of the Boyden & Akeley Shingle Mill. With one 66-inch circular saw and a “gang” edger, it employed 24 men and had a capacity of 40,000 board feet a day. Eventually Derk’s son John took over the lumber business his grandfather had begun. In 1890 the business name was changed from Derk Bakker & Sons to D. Baker & Son. After the mill burned down on December 22, 1894 [1895], Bakker started to supply lumber to local builders. In the early 1900s, he and John purchased eight lots from Charles and Lizzie Shupe on Pennoyer Street, whose land had been used for raising berries. On that site the Bakkers built D. Bakker & Son Lumber Company at 720-722 Pennoyer. When John died in 1920, Derk resumed control of the lumber business until his death in 1925, when John II took over the business. Derk hired Martin Boon as Manager. Boon, an employee of the lumber company for more than 50 years, worked with another Bakker son, Doug, and later with Doug’s sons, Dick and Bruce. Doug Baker assumed control in 1946 and operated it until his sons Bruce and Dick took over in 1978, making the fourth generation of Bakers to head up the business. The Dutch surname was “Americanized” sometime in the distant past by dropping a “k.”

**1871 FIRST NATIONAL BANK [1871-1891]**

Organized in August 1871, First National was successor to the banking firm of Ferry & Son. Its officers were Edward P. Ferry, President; Dwight Cutler I, Vice President; and George Stickney, Cashier. Directors were Stephen Munroe, Thomas Stewart White, Sherman H. Boyce, Hunter Savidge, and Healy C. Akeley. The starting capital was \$100,000, which doubled in size by the end of the first year of operation. The bank reorganized in 1891 and had its charter renewed under the name National Bank of Grand Haven. The officers at that time were Dwight Cutler, President; Nelson R. Howlett, Vice President; George Stickney, Cashier; and Directors, in addition to the

officers, were William Savidge, John A. Pfaff, George A. Farr, Nat Robbins V, Sherman H. Boyce, and Dwight Cutler II. The bank began operations in the Ferry & Son Building on the north side of Harbor Drive, between Washington and Franklin Streets.

**1871 HANCOCK & STITT WAGON FACTORY [1871-1872]**

The Hancock & Stitt Wagon Factory, begun by George Hancock in 1871, was located in Spring Lake. Hancock left the business in 1872 to raise fruits and vegetables in Grand Haven Township.

**1871 BATCHELLOR, SLAGHT & SHIPPEY SAWMILL [1871-1881]**

George Shippey was one of three partners in the Batchellor, Slaght, & Shippey firm, which was formed in 1866 in Chicago. In October 1871 the company bought the Ferry & Hopkins Steam Sawmill in Ferrysburg for \$32,000. The sawmill was included in the 1873 *Michigan Gazetteer and Business Directory* for Ferrysburg. Located at the confluence of Spring Lake and the Grand River, the mill was sold to the Grand Haven Lumber Company ten years later. Webster Batchellor was another principal in the business. The third partner, Nathaniel Slaght, was a lumberman from Greenville, Kent County. Webster Batchellor and George Shippey became residents of the Grand Haven area.

**1871 HAIRE & TOLFORD SAWMILL [1871-1874]**

Thomas White built a sawmill on the Grand River near the foot of Division Street in about 1851. It became Haire & Cole Company in 1867, under the ownership of Robert Haire and Edward Cole of Blendon, and four years later it became Haire & Tolford. It was bought by Cutler & Savidge in 1874. The fire of 1871 that destroyed much of Spring Lake Village started here, leaving 70 families homeless.

**1871 GRAND RIVER BRICK CO. [1871-1872]**

The Grand River Brick Company was located on Crockery Creek, about one-half mile from the Grand River. It evidently was in business only from November 1871 to October the next year, but its bricks had wide distribution throughout the area.

**1871 SHELDON'S MAGNETIC MINERAL SPRINGS AND SANITARIUM [1871-@1892]**

In 1871 Willard C. Sheldon discovered mineral waters at a depth of 160 feet near the northwest corner of Washington and Third Streets in Grand Haven. W. Paine, a physician from Philadelphia with 40 years' experience, arrived in Grand Haven around 1871 to help Sheldon organize the Resort. Evidently his stay in Grand Haven was short lived. *Michigan Medical History* noted that the doctor "... came with a great flourish of trumpets but failed to relieve pain so signally, that he left the sanitarium in better hands after his second season." The mineral water was pumped from an artesian well in the basement. Claims were made for many wonderful cures, and soon the springs attracted thousands of visitors. A two-story, 100-foot by 50-foot building was constructed to house the many guests. The grounds were laid out with shade trees and shrubs, and croquet, archery, and bowling were offered to the guests. Referred to as Sheldon's Magnetic Mineral Springs and Sanitarium the resort offered a variety of baths, hot and cold. Fred "Doc" Graves [Greaves], a former slave, and his wife Isabella were hired to give massages and provide other services to the guests. The Cutler House, a state-of-the-art hotel, stood opposite the resort. As the novelty of the magical springs wore off, in 1893 Sheldon's resort was renamed the Norris, and Agnes Smallman was appointed manager. Eventually the spa merged with the Cutler House, which had been destroyed by the devastating fire of 1889 and rebuilt on a much smaller scale soon after. The Norris was then referred to as the Cutler Annex. The building was razed to make way for the new post office in 1905.

**1871 SECOND REFORMED CHURCH [1871-present]**

Like the Spring Lake Reformed Church, which was organized in 1870, the Second Reformed Church of Grand Haven also was an outgrowth of the First Reformed Church. It began on November 22, 1871 with 20 families from the “mother church,” with names such as Brower, Danhof, Rysdorp, Bolt, Westerhof, and Berg. Rev. A. Vanden Hart was the first pastor, followed by Reverends Van Zanten, Jacob and John Vander Meulen, Vergurg, Vreuwink, Bloom, Beltman, and Leonard Greenway. The congregation’s first church, located at 600 Washington, was dedicated on November 26, 1872. It was destroyed by fire on March 2, 1890 and a new structure was erected and dedicated on December 10 that year. The parsonage was across the street at 603 Washington. The sanctuary was sold to the Seventh Day Adventist in December 1954, but the congregation continued to use it until July 1957, when the members occupied a new church at 1000 Waverly.

**1871 BOYDEN & AKELEY SHINGLE MILL [1871-1882]**

The largest shingle mill in the world in its heyday, Boyden & Akeley was located on the south side of the South Channel between Second and Third Streets. Charles Boyden bought the Ridell Mill at this site about 1868 and converted it to a shingle mill but ran out of capital before the business was established. Three years later Healy C. Akeley joined him as co-owner. Immediately after the mill was destroyed by fire in 1871, the owners rebuilt and operated the new mill until it burned down in June 1882, bringing the business to an end. At that time the company, with 240 employees, was the largest shingle mill in the world, and was able to cut 937,000 shingles in 11½ hours, at the same time it was cutting 100,000 board feet of lumber. In 1881, the year the Grand Haven Lumber Company bought the shingle factory and three other Grand Haven mills, Boyden & Akeley produced 160,000,000 shingles.

**1872 AMERICAN EXPRESS CO. [1872-?]**

Henry Lilley was agent for American Express from 1872 to 1887, followed by his son Charles E. Lilley. In 1882 the office was located in the rear of Vander Veen’s Drug Store at the southwest corner of Second and Washington Streets and was moved to 127 Washington in 1900.

**1872 GRAND HAVEN WAGON WORKS/GRAND HAVEN MFG. CO. [1872-1891]**

Founded in 1872 by August Hubert in a 40 foot by 100-foot brick structure at the corner of Third and Elliott Streets [255 North Third Street], Grand Haven Wagon Works employed seven men and produced 60 wagons annually. One of its novel products was a unique “Collection Wagon” adorned with bells to let the neighborhood know that a bill collector was in the area. In the early 1880s August Hoffmeister was in charge of the woodwork, and Mr. Teunis managed the ironwork. Reorganized in 1891, it became the Grand Haven Manufacturing Company, with Gustav Hubert as part owner. Gustav was August’s son.

**1872 CUTLER HOUSE [1872-1914]**

In 1871 Dwight Cutler I began construction of the Cutler House on the southwest corner of Washington and Third Streets. This majestic five-story building, done in the Second Empire style, measured 125’ by 133’, and was dedicated on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1872. One of the finest around, it soon ranked among the most popular in the state. A visitor could not help but be impressed by its size and beauty. It cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to build and furnish and could accommodate 300 people. It had steam heat, a steam-driven passenger elevator, hot and cold running water, and gaslights. Its halls and lobby were beautifully decorated, and its rooms were well arranged for lectures, dances, and public entertainment. The hotel had its own musical group called the Cutler House Brass Band. The hotel’s first manager was W. G. Sherman, considered at the time to be a competent and able hotel man of many years’ experience. The Cutler House was located across the street from Willard C. Sheldon’s Magnetic Mineral Spring, and the two owners became business associates.



The disastrous fire of October 1, 1889 destroyed many residences and some of downtown Grand Haven, as it moved primarily to the north and east from Third Street and Washington. Cutler lost both his hotel and home. About 50 other businesses and homes were wiped out in the five-block area covered by the fire. The citizens of Grand Haven began immediately to rebuild, and a second smaller, less ornate Cutler House [the “New Cutler House”] rose from the ashes in 1890 and opened on September 1, 1891. It was an L-shaped building, having frontage of 150 feet on Washington Street and 128 feet on Third Street. On the Third Street side there was a broad, sheltered veranda 76 feet long, which served as a cool, shady promenade or resting place in the summer. The Western Union office was here, and the lobby was furnished with easy chairs and many potted plants. The dining room was furnished in oak and seated 150 guests. In the basement there were sample rooms, a barbershop, bathrooms, and a first-class café. While not as ornamental and elaborate as the Cutler House, it represented all that was the best and most progressive in the hotel world of the day. When the hotel reopened, the Andres Brothers were proprietors. The rates then were \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day. The dining room was thoroughly ventilated, well lighted, cool in the summer and warm in winter, with tasteful decorations, snowy linen, sparkling glassware, and shining silver, together with neat, attractive, and obliging waitresses. The upper part of the building was reached by a broad, massive oak staircase. The bedrooms were furnished in cherry and oak, with Brussels, Axminster, and velvet carpets. The cuisine was managed with an eye to provide the best foods the market afforded, with every luxury and delicacy obtainable during all seasons. The hotel had electric and gaslights, an electric call bell system, and steam heat and open fires for winter comfort. In the summer months, an excellent orchestra played both popular and classical music throughout the day and evening. The hotel closed permanently about 1914, when Beaudry’s Department Store opened at this corner site.

**1872 MUNROE, BOYCE & CO. [1872-@1888]**

In 1872 Sherman Boyce bought out John Thomson’s interest in the Munroe, Thomson Lumber Company, formed in 1867 by Thomson and Stephen L. Munroe. The new firm was renamed Munroe, Boyce & Co. Nelson Howlett became a principal in the organization in 1882. Located on Spring Lake at the foot of Jackson Street [Block 2, Bryant’s Addition], the sawmill was in operation until 1888, when it was relocated to the Upper Peninsula. In 1881 the company sold the Spring Lake mill and some of its assets to a new company called Cook, Vanderveen & Co., owned by John W. Cook, Jacob Vander Veen, and an unnamed Grand Haven lumberman. Munroe, Boyce had two 812-ton barges built, the *Mary H. Boyce* in 1887 and the *Mary A. McGregor* the next year. Apparently the firm closed around that time.

**1872 ALDEN FRUIT PRESERVING CO. [1872-@1881]**

The Alden Fruit Preserving Company was formed in 1872 by Thomas D. Denison, Aloys Bilz, and Warner Vos for the purpose of drying and shipping the fruit that grew nearby in abundance. The plant was located on Spring Lake at the foot of Alden Street, a spot later occupied by the Spring Lake Basket Company. By 1881 Alden was gone and the building was empty.

**1872 SISSON & SEYMOUR CO. [1872-1874]**

George Sisson, who was born in Oxford, New York in 1839, arrived in Spring Lake in 1871 as manager of the Spring Lake House, where he stayed for two years. He then became interested in lumbering, and in June 1872 he formed a partnership with Thomas Seymour and opened a sawmill in Section 15 of Spring Lake Township, near the confluence of Lloyd’s Bayou and the Grand River. Two years later Seymour sold his interest to Francis Lilley, and the firm of Sisson & Lilley was formed.

**1873 WAIT MFG. CO. [1873-1883]**

In 1873 Justin B. Wait of Wisconsin purchased Cornelius De Vlieger's planing mill, established some years earlier. In the same year, 1871, the Wait Manufacturing Company was incorporated with Wait as President, Thomas Stewart White, Secretary-Treasurer, and John M. Lockie [Lock], Works Superintendent. Levi Scofield [Schofield] was an employee, who by 1893 was Superintendent. His inventions were of great help to the business and included corn planter improvements, a check rower, and a refrigerator. The first year the company manufactured 30,000 hand rakes and 25 corn planters. Wait left the company in 1879, and the business was continued under the leadership of L. C. Chamberlain. The company reorganized in 1881 with Edwin G. Bell, President, George Stickney, Secretary and Treasurer, John M. Lockie, Foreman, James McCourt, turner, James H. Gibbs, blacksmith, and Joseph W. Adams, wheel works. The company spent \$100,000 on new buildings. It employed 60 men with a monthly payroll of \$1200 to \$1500 and was recognized as one of the outstanding industries of its time. Its annual production was 1200 two-horse cultivators, 500 one-horse drills, 500 drill attachments for two-horse cultivators, 800,000 rafting pine, and 90,000 hand rakes. In 1883 Challenge Corn Planter & Refrigerator Company took over Wait Manufacturing. The company's buildings were located on the east side of North Seventh Street [Beacon Boulevard] near the Grand River.

**1873 CHAFFEE, STEARNS CO. [1873-1874]**

Started in 1873 by Mr. Chaffee and George L. Stearns on the southeast corner of Seventh and Elliott Streets [Lot 7, Block 7, Munroe and Harris Addition], Chaffee, Stearns manufactured windmill equipment. Stearns bought out Chaffee's interest in 1874 and changed the name to Stearns Manufacturing Company.

**1873 KIRBY HOUSE/GILDNER HOTEL/WILLIAM FERRY HOTEL/SCHULER HOTEL [1873-1965]**

Rev. Ferry's house, the first building at the southeast corner of Washington and Harbor [Lot 23], burned down in February 1866. Ed Killean and Thomas W. Kirby built the Kirby House on the same lot in 1873 at a cost of \$50,000. W. G. Sherman, the manager, also ran the Cutler House. From 1900 to 1931 it was known as the Gildner, between 1931 and 1947 it was the Ferry, and for the next 18 years it was the Schuler. In 1965 the owner, Win Schuler, removed the third floor and converted the business into a restaurant.

**1873 ANDRES HOUSE [1873-?]**

Ernest Andres built the Andres House, his third hotel in the area, on the southeast corner of Franklin Street and Harbor Drive in Grand Haven, near the Grand River in 1873. Lillie quoted 1874 as the year the hotel was built. By the early 1890s Joseph N. Rue was proprietor. Andres offered meals for 25 cents, and rooms were \$1.00 a day.

**1873 UNITED STATES STEAMBOAT INSPECTION OFFICE [1873-?]**

The local office of the U.S. Steamboat inspection system, part of the Treasury Department, was one of 47 throughout the country. The first board, appointed in 1873, included Captain Lierson, local Inspector of Hulls, and John Stark, grandfather of Agnes Stark Koster. The board consisted of two "practical" steamboat men, one an inspector of hulls and the other an inspector of boilers. The district supervised from Grand Haven included the east shore of Lake Michigan, from St. Joseph to Harbor Springs. The inspectors' job was to ensure that all vessels were suitable in all respects for the service in which they were employed, and to investigate all maritime accidents and violations of law within the jurisdiction.

**1873 CALLISTER [CALISTER/COLLISTER] SHIPYARD [@1873-@1890]**

During the Civil War, John Callister worked for the U.S. Government as a ship's carpenter, a trade he had followed since 1847. He came to Grand Haven from Detroit in 1866 and became part

owner and Foreman of the Kirby Shipyard. By the early 1870s he had his own ship building business. His production included these vessels:

- 1873 *City of Grand Rapids*, 225-ton barge for H.V. O'Brien.
- 1874 *A. Jackson*, 229-ton schooner, for Hackley, *et al.*  
*Kaiser Wilhelm*, a 28-ton propeller for John Zietlow.  
*Transfer*, a 361-ton barge, for Michigan Barge Company.
- 1875 *T.W. Ferry*, a 27-ton propeller, for C. Vandervere.
- 1876 *Gracie Barker*, a 73-ton propeller, for Thomas W. Kirby.
- 1877 *Lady Washington*, a 25-ton propeller, for J.B. Ketchen.
- 1880 *Grace Patterson*, a 110-ton propeller for Mr. Patterson.  
*H. C. Akeley*, a 1,400-ton steamer, for Kirby & Akeley.  
*Webster Batcheller*, a 46-ton propeller, for Thomas W. Kirby.
- 1882 *S.B. Barker*, 78-ton propeller, for Frank A. Brower, *et al.*
- 1884 *Major H.B. Pickens*, 1,000-ton propeller, for Thomas W. Kirby.
- 1887 *McCormick*, 120-ton steamer, built for a Mr. McCormick.  
*Mark Hopkins*, 700-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.  
*Samuel Marshal*, 1,000-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.
- 1888 *Joe*, 60-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.  
*Sprite*, 30-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.
- 1889 *J.C. Ford*, 700-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.  
*Emma Bloecker*, 30-ton tug, built for Vandervere Brothers.  
*J.W. Callister*, 30-ton steamer, built for Thomas W. Kirby.

#### **1874 SISSON & LILLEY CO. [1874-@1884]**

In June 1872 George Sisson and Thomas Seymour formed the Sisson & Seymour Company. They located their sawmill in Section 15 of Spring Lake Township, near the confluence of Lloyd's Bayou and the Grand River. Two years later Seymour sold his interest to Francis Lilley. The new partners named their business Sisson & Lilley Company. Lilley saw the need for sawmills near railroads, so the lumber could easily be loaded and transported, and his foresightedness helped make the mill eminently successful. The mill was destroyed by fire in November 1881, restocked, and burned out in May 1884. There is no evidence the sawmill was rebuilt after the second fire. A map drawn by Peter Kammeraad, a surveyor, placed the Sisson & Lilley mill on the west end of Eastman Island.

#### **1874 STEARNS MFG. CO. [1874-1883]**

George L. Stearns in 1874 bought out Mr. Chaffee's interest in the Chaffee, Stearns Company, formed the year before. The company manufactured windmill equipment, pumps, cylinders, windmill derricks, and tanks. The company employed 30 to 50 men. The two-story frame building was located on the southeast corner of Seventh and Elliott Streets in Grand Haven [Block 8, Lot 6, Munroe & Harris Addition]. In 1879 George Stearns was joined by his brother Lawton. The same year the company won a medal from the American Institute in New York, and other prizes at St. Petersburg, Russia, Boulogne, France, and Havana, Cuba for product development and other innovations. An 1882 picture carried the caption "Grand Haven Planing Mills, Stearn Bros. Propts Manufacturers of Sash, doors, blinds and dressed lumber." Like many such businesses that worked with wood, barrels of water were placed on the roof spine in case of fire. Apparently that was not enough to save the company from a disastrous fire in 1883 that destroyed the structure.

#### **1874 GREY BRICK CO. [1874-1888]**

Hial Grey purchased the brick-making firm of Weston, Dudley & Soule in 1874 and renamed it Grey Brick Company. Because the clay banks at Cornelius Bayou were exhausted, Grey moved

the equipment and machinery to the north side of Stahl's Bayou, three miles north on the west shore of Spring Lake, to manufacture clay bricks. Martin Walsh also had a financial interest in the business for part of the time. The owners sold it in 1888 to Mr. Patterson and Mr. Dillingham, who that same year sold it to Dr. J. O. Bates of Muskegon and Charles Begin [Began] of Spring Lake, before Fred Bertschy acquired it in September 1889. Begin retained a financial interest in the business even then.

**1874 GRAND HAVEN LIBRARY/CARNEGIE LIBRARY/LOUITT DISTRICT LIBRARY**  
[@1874-present]

The first library in the area dates to 1874. Known as the Grand Haven Library Association, it functioned by a subscription system. Furnished simply with a stove, desk, chairs, and shelves for the books, the library was located in a room provided by Edward P. Ferry above his office on First Street. Grand Haven's first public library came into existence in conjunction with the public school. Prior to that, Mary Arms White made her private library open to others. In 1880 the Grand Haven High School library was opened to the general public. The 1901 fire at Central School destroyed the school, the library, and 4,000 books. A library was included in the rebuilt school, but a few years later a library opened in downtown Grand Haven. Under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Hofma and the Women's Club, a grant of \$12,500 was obtained from the Andrew Carnegie Endowment Foundation for a new building. A bequest from local lumberman Webster Batchellor also provided some funds for the building and for new books. Finally, in 1913, ground was broken for the new library at 15 North Third. Residents donated books, magazines, and furnishings, and the Grand Haven schools presented 2,500 volumes. The building opened to the public on January 5 the next year, with Isabel Thomson serving as first librarian, a post she held until 1924. She was, followed by Helen De Young who served until 1959, and then Elizabeth von Oettingen, who retired in 1979. During von Oettingen's term the library moved in June 1967 to new quarters at 407 Columbus, thanks to a gift from the Loutit Foundation of more than \$815,000 in cash and the land on which the library was built. The original library was razed to make room for a parking lot for the bank sitting on the northwest corner of Third and Washington. 407 Columbus had been the site of the parsonage of the First Christian Reformed Church and later the Church of the Nazarene. The church was razed when all the structures in this block of Columbus were removed to make room for the new library and community center in the mid-1960s. The community center to the east [421 Columbus] was built the next year. In 2008 the building was completely gutted, enlarged, and modernized.

**1875 VANDEN BOSCH & CO./BIG STORE/BAAS' MEN'S STORE & COUNTRY HOUSE**  
[1875-1999]

Gerrit Vanden Bosch was the founder of a business located 100 North Third, which he began in 1875 and at that time included groceries and dry goods. In 1884 a clothing department was added under the management of Thomas and Henry Vanden Bosch, and the three Vanden Bosches then formed a partnership, although they advertised as different businesses. For instance, this ad ran in the 1892 *Historical and Business Compendium*: "T. Van Den Bosch & Bro. DEALERS IN CLOTHING. HATS, CAPS, UMBRELLAS, GENTLEMEN'S UNDERWEAR OF ALL KINDS, SHIRTS, COLLARS, CUFFS AND NECKWEAR, AND JEWELRY, TRUNKS AND VALISES. THIRD STREET, GRAND HAVEN, MICH." An advertisement featuring a baby buggy appeared two pages later: "G. Van Den Bosch & Bro. THIRD STREET, GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN. Dealers in the most Complete Lines of DRY GOODS. NOTIONS, CLOAKS, JACKETS, CARPETS, WALL PAPER, LAMPS AND TOYS. Baby Buggies A SPECIALTY." Evidently groceries had been dropped. In 1894 Thomas died and three years later Martin retired from the business, and their sons Charles, Conrad, and Bert joined the firm. By 1908 at least six Vanden Bosches were associated with the business. The original building erected on this site in 1884 was known by 1900 as the "Big Store" and advertised itself as such, although

it also was referred to as Vanden Bosch Clothiers and Dry Goods. A number of Vanden Bosch's were in the business, including Bert, Charles, Conrad, Gerrit, and Henry. The frame building had entrances on both Columbus and Third Streets. Several businesses shared the building over the years, including Jean Yock's Millinery, Ver Duin's Sporting Goods, Peter Klaver's Market, and an A & P grocery store. Ed Baas of Grand Rapids acquired the clothing business in May 1943, and in 1951 he replaced the wooden structure with a new building. Baas eventually acquired the property just to the north [110 North Third] and opened the Country Store at that site as a shop for women's clothing. That department was moved to the main building at 100 North Third in 1997. The men's clothing business took the name of Baas' Men's Store in 1970. Upon Ed's retirement in 1979, his son Gary took over the business. The store closed permanently in late 1999.

**1875 OTTAWA COUNTY NEWS [1875-?]**

In the fall of 1875 Hiram Potts started the *Ottawa County News* in Nunica. Two months later he moved to Coopersville and renamed the paper the *Courier*. In April 1877, Potts moved the business again, this time to Spring Lake, and called his publication the *Ottawa County Courier*. Three years later he moved to Grand Haven, renaming the paper as the *Grand Haven Courier Journal*, and giving it a Democratic slant. However, the front page of the June 7, 1890 edition claimed the newspaper was "Republican in Politics." Dr. Mary Kitchel in her *Centennial* book noted that the newspaper said it began in 1869.

**1875 CUTLER HOUSE LIVERY [1875-?]**

Edwin C. Butts was manager of the Cutler House Livery beginning in 1875. He bought the business, located on Third Street near the Cutler House, in 1881.

**1875 BALL BROS CO. [1875-1947]**

On April 17, 1875, Jurrien Ball bought the building on the northeast corner of Washington and Second Streets in Grand Haven from Ann Elizabeth Loutit, daughter of Captain Robert Howlett. Ball started business as partner with Jurrien and Arie Woltman [Waltman] of the Woltman, Ball & Company. They were housed in a building constructed in 1872 at 201-203 Washington Street [Howlett Block]. On November 1, 1877 the business failed, but Jurrien appealed to his creditors to let him carry on. In 1877 Jurrien and a brother bought out the Woltman brothers and operated a dry goods and grocery business at the same address. Jurrien sold part of the business to his brother, Gerritt, who in the 1920s moved the grocery business one building east and Jurrien kept the dry goods part, which then was known as the J. Ball Store and operated until 1947. Jurrien recalled that his first customer was Jacob Vander Veen, who owned the drugstore across the street [136 Washington]. Vander Veen ordered a gallon of vinegar, 30 cents; 15-16 pounds of butter, 48 cents; 5 lbs of sugar, 60 cents; 2 ¼ pounds of cheese, 45 cents; and a pound of pepper, 50 cents.

**1875 UNITARIAN CHURCH [1875-1924]**

The Unitarians, organized in April 1875, first met in the Cutler House. Rev. M H. Houghton was the first minister, followed by Rev. George Cook in 1876. Among the early leaders were Dr. Edward Cummings, T. D. Stickney, Dwight Cutler I, Justin B. Wait, George Washington Smith, Daniel Gale, and Willard C. Sheldon. Their first church, erected by Healy C. Akeley at 324 Washington in 1881, was destroyed in the 1889 fire. A second building erected here was acquired by the Women's Club in 1924, upon the dissolution of the church. The Club had been meeting in the church parlor since its inception in 1891. The church's mission was to establish "Liberal Christianity" in Grand Haven.

**1876 NEWS-JOURNAL [1876-?]**

Lee and Hitchcock bought the *Grand Haven News* from John Barnes in 1876, consolidated it with the *Journal*, and published it as the *News-Journal*. It leaned toward the Greenback party. Hitchcock retired in January 1877.

**1877 OTTAWA COUNTY COURIER [1877-1880]**

Hiram Potts, ever on the move with his newspapers, left Coopersville and started the *Ottawa County Courier* in Spring Lake in June 1877. The paper was politically on the side of the Democrats. Three years later he moved the paper to Grand Haven and gave it a democratic slant. By 1892 Horace G. Nichols was the owner, and the paper advertised itself as a “Republican Weekly.”

**1877 WHITE, FRIANT & CO. [1877-?]**

Thomas Stewart White and Thomas Friant formed a partnership in 1877 to cut and mill lumber. They operated at the site of the sawmill originally built in 1837 by Colonel Norton in Nortonville, but which had been rebuilt at least once after a destructive fire. The new owners called their business White, Friant & Co. In 1885 John Rugee of Milwaukee joined the business. Their mills extended to Manistee and Menominee, with land holdings in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, and Florida.

**1877 WIXSON PHOTOGRAPHY [1877-1880]**

After working together as Wixson and Baker, Joseph Wixson in June 1880 sold his photography studio, which he had opened in 1877, to Edwin P. Baker. For a short time, the business operated under the name Mrs. J.E. Wixson, Joseph’s wife, Julia. The studio was over the post office, located at the southeast corner of First and Washington Streets in Grand Haven.

**1877 PEARSON & HUNGERFORD HARDWARE AND CUTLERY [1877-?]**

In 1877 partners Alton C. Pearson and Henry Harrison Hungerford opened the Pearson & Hungerford Hardware and Cutlery Store in Spring Lake. The business also offered “steam fitting and plumbing,” paints, oils, tin, copper, and sheet iron. Apparently they closed not long after 1880.

**1877 BRYCE & GRONBERG CO. [1877-1881]**

John Bryce and Otto Gronberg started Bryce & Gronberg, small machine shop, in 1877 on Lot 92 of the northeast corner of Elliott and First Streets [approximately 200 North First]. At the same time, they had an interest in Grand Haven Iron Works across the street on Lot 85 [approximately 201 North First]. About 1878 Henry Bloecker left Ottawa Iron Works in Ferrysburg and bought out Gronberg’s share of the machine shop. In May 1881 John Bryce, Henry Bloecker and Christian Gallmeyer formed a partnership and rebuilt the Grand Haven Iron Works, which had burned down that year. They named their business Bryce, Bloecker & Gallmeyer.

**1877 WOMAN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION [1877-?] At the base of the fountain were the initials “WCTU,” representing the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, and the date “1910.”**

The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union [WCTU] held its first meeting in Grand Haven on April 23, 1877. The meeting was called by “that honored apostle of temperance” Dr. Henry Reynolds. It was the first time the group had met in Ottawa County. Mrs. Frederick C. Stratton was named President. The next day a constitution was adopted, and the Union became a permanent organization. In June of the same year a lecture on temperance by a Captain Linscott “stirred up the temperance women of Spring Lake to join the rapidly increasing army of white ribboners.” After a brief hiatus, the Spring Lake WCTU was reorganized at “Red Ribbon Hall” in February 1878. Seven years later the Spring Lake group moved the hall, formerly occupied by the

Red Ribbon Club, to a lot they purchased. Ten years after that the WCTU had chapters in Lamont, where Eliza Robinson was President, and in Allendale, with Amanda M. Cooley as President, and in 1889 in Coopersville, where Etta Laubauch presided. In January 1886 a Young Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Spring Lake by Lydia Jane Newcomb. The new organization had 50 regular and 20 honorary members. One of the Temperance Union's enduring contributions to the area was a water fountain, ornamented with elaborate grapes and figures. It was installed on June 10, 1911 in the hope of stopping men from slaking their thirst in a saloon. The fountain had spouts at the bottom and top so that both horses, dogs, and passersby could refresh themselves as they made their way down the dusty streets of that era, as well as passersby. Spring Lake resident and Civil War veteran Enno Pruim paid for the fountain, cup, and chain. Another Spring Lake resident and member of the WCTU, Ella Wood, helped collect money to maintain the fountain. The cast iron fountain was made by the J.L. Mott Iron Works of New Jersey. Around 1988 the Spring Lake Heritage League reclaimed it from the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, repainted it, and moved it to the middle of Jackson Street, midway between Savidge and Exchange Streets.

**1878 MOOZEN & GLERUM, BUILDERS [1878-?]**

Although mentioned in the 1882 *History of Muskegon and Ottawa Counties*, little was uncovered about these contractors, except that they built "many fine structures." William Moozen, from Kalamazoo, arrived in Grand Haven in 1873, while Cornelius Glerum came to Grand Haven from Holland in 1866. In 1892 Glerum was in partnership with Simon Stuveling and advertised more than 20 years experience.

**1878 GRAND HAVEN RAILROAD CO. [1878-1881]**

On October 15, 1878, with capital of \$800,000, the Grand Haven Railroad Company purchased the Michigan Lake Shore Rail Road, which owned track between Allegan and Muskegon and going through Grand Haven. The officers of the company were James W. Converse of Boston, President; C. C. Converse, Secretary; and Fred H. May Manager. Three years later the line was extended to Battle Creek. The firm merged on July 16, 1881 with the Chicago & West Michigan Railway Company, comprising four former lines: The Chicago & West Michigan Railway Company; Boston, Muskegon, Grand Rapids; Grand Rapids, Newaygo, & Lake Shore; and Indiana & Michigan Railroad. At the Ferrysburg station, where the Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee line joined the Chicago & West Michigan Railroad, passengers and freight were transferred. The Chicago & West Michigan ran south to Holland and New Buffalo, where it joined the Michigan Central. The company was sold at foreclosure on March 28, 1917 to Pere Marquette.

**1878 DETROIT, GRAND HAVEN AND MILWAUKEE RAILWAY CO. [1878-1928]**

In 1878 Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee went into receivership and was sold at foreclosure to the newly incorporated Detroit, Grand Haven, & Milwaukee Railway. The Grand Trunk Railway of Canada retained control. The company merged in 1928 with Grand Trunk Western.

**1879 GEORGE HANCOCK & SONS WHOLESALE FLORISTS/FRANKS FLOWER SHOP & GREENHOUSE/LAKESHORE FLORAL [1879-present]**

The George Hancock firm of wholesale florists and gardeners began business in 1879. By 1897 the company had grown to 40 acres and 14 large greenhouses and took in most of the land bounded by Washington, the equivalent of Ninth, Fulton, and Ferry Streets. The company was known for its celery, but also grew as many as 50,000 large and 250,000 small carnations. Canned tomatoes also were an important part of the Hancock business, sold under the labels "Hancock," "Valley City," and "Harbor." Lillie stated that Hancock was the first to raise celery in the Grand Haven area. An invoice dated June 25, 1894 billed F. H. Green of Allegan \$1.50 for 10

dozen bunches of celery. By the early 1900s the business address was 1215 Washington. George Hancock's son James married Belle Franks, a sister of James Franks, who eventually took over the business, followed by his son, Ernest. Called Franks Greenhouse, the business in 1940 was located at 828 Columbus. About 1956 Ernest sold the business to his two sons, James and William, who moved it to 915 Washington and added "Flower Shop" to the company name. In 1980 Dan Nash of Grand Rapids bought the business from William. Nash expanded the business, which he operated as Lakeshore Floral and Gift Shop at 915 Washington.

**1879 SPRING LAKE IRON CO. [1879-1912]**

Also referred to as the Fruitport Iron Company, Spring Lake Iron was incorporated in 1879 with a capital stock of \$200,000. Located at the head of Spring Lake at Fruitport, it employed 400 men during the busy season. The company produced Lake Superior charcoal and pig iron. The officers were: Samuel Marshall, President; Colonel E. H. Broadhead, Vice President; Irving M. Bean, Secretary-Treasurer; and Major Henry S. Pickands, General Manager. Both Broadhead and Bean were from Milwaukee. In 1896 Irving Bean was President; C. F. Ilsley, Vice President; Samuel Marshall, Treasurer; and J. C. Ford, Secretary and General Manager. Their production capacity then was about 80 tons per day, with an annual capacity of 29,000 tons. The plant was located near the head of Spring Lake, just north of the Muskegon County Line. It consisted of a 55-foot dock on Spring Lake, a power plant, blacksmith shop, a company store, boarding house, and company-owned houses rented to the employees. Mr. Ford had been Superintendent of the Michigan Central Iron Company until 1879, when he joined Spring Lake Iron.

**1879 BROUWER & VOS SAWMILL [1879-?]**

The Brouwer & Vos Sawmill was built in 1879 on the site of the Rysdorp, Bosche, & Sprik Sawmill, which burned down in 1877. Johannes D. Vos, formerly a partner in the Rysdorp Company, joined with Mr. Brouwer in establishing the business.

**1879 YATES LIGHT INFANTRY/COMPANY F [1879-1993]**

In April 1879 about 40 local men, led by Frank E. Yates, met to organize an independent military company known as Yates Light Infantry. On July 24 of the same year, the group was mustered into the military service of the State of Michigan and designated as Company F, Second Regiment, Michigan State Troops. Fifty-four men were enrolled. The first officers were Frank Yates, Captain; George W. McBride, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant; and Samuel C. Mower, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. The next spring Captain Yates resigned, and Samuel C. Mower was elected Captain. The name of the outfit was changed to the Ottawa Blues. Under Captain Mower the company was called out twice, once on May 17, 1881 to take action against an armed mob attempting to take a prisoner from a county jail, and on October 13 that year the company was ordered to Muskegon to help maintain order during a strike at a sawmill. From August 1883 to October 1887, Herman F. Harbeck was Captain. He was followed by Frederick A. Mansfield, about the time the name was changed again, this time to the Grand Haven Guards. Baltus Pellegrom succeeded Mansfield in April 1893. Pellegrom held the position for only a year, and then he was replaced by Edward H. Andres on May 4, 1894. During the Spanish American War the company temporarily became part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Michigan Volunteer Infantry and then was incorporated as part of the United States Volunteer Infantry. The company served briefly in Florida, saw no action in Cuba, and returned to Grand Haven on September 24, 1898. At least 31 members of the company were stricken with malaria, dysentery, or typhoid fever while in Florida, and Frederick M. Carr of Coopersville died. The company was mustered out of federal service on October 31 that year. The company was assigned to active duty in 1913, when it was ordered to Hancock, Michigan, during a copper strike, where it served for 66 days. It was called up again on July 1, 1916 to serve with the border guard in Texas and New Mexico. The group was mustered out on February 15, 1917, and returned home, only to be mobilized again on July 15, 1917. The company trained at Camp



Grayling and elsewhere, and then embarked for France on February 17, 1917, where it saw service as part of Company L, 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry and later as part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The French called Company L *Les Terribles*, while the Americans gave it the name the Red Arrow Division. The company was mustered out of active service in May 1919. During World War II Company F saw 21 months of fighting in its 41 months of overseas service in the Philippines and New Guinea. In 1967 the soldiers, too, were reinvigorated with their return to civil duty to help quell Detroit's riots. But the next year the company was divided between armories in Ohio and other locations. The company was briefly reunited in 1989, only to be split up once again in 1993.

The company at first met in the Grey Building [16 Washington]. In May 1886, the company bought the Music Hall, located on the northwest corner of Franklin and Second Streets and renamed the Company F Opera House. This building burned down on Thanksgiving Day, 1902. The company met in the Cutler Annex until a new Armory was ready for use in late 1905. The State of Michigan bought the Armory in 1920. In 1958 the Armory's aging structure received needed renovations to its roof, plumbing, and wiring. Through the years the Armory gym was used for stage shows, high school basketball games, and from 1963 to 1976 it housed the newly organized Grand Haven YMCA. Due to the pressures of a shrinking budget, the Armory was forced to shut down in September 1995. In 1996 the building was sold to a local church group.

**1880 GLOVER & TATE TUB FACTORY [1880-1881]**

The Glover & Tate Tub Factory manufactured barrels for shipping fish. It was located just east of the Boyden & Akeley Shingle Mill on the south side of the South Channel between Second and Third Streets. Benjamin and Aaron D. Fessenden of Massachusetts purchased it from owners Samuel Glover and Samuel Tate in 1881, a year after its founding. The company employed about 60 men at that time.

**1880 BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO [1880-?]**

In June 1880 Edwin P. Baker, from Ypsilanti, purchased the photography studio of Joseph T. Wixson, located over the post office at the southeast corner of First and Washington Streets in Grand Haven. Baker did work in India ink and watercolors, and also made enlargements.

**1880 GRAND HAVEN LUMBER CO. [1880-1886]**

The starting date of the Grand Haven Lumber may have been earlier than 1880. [An earlier business with the same name closed in 1846.] Charles Boyden was the first president and Andrew Emlaw was an officer of the new organization. Healy C. Akeley was a major shareholder. Henry Rysdorp joined the company in 1880 as manager of one of the mills. Lillie stated that the company "was a very extensive concern," and in 1881 it acquired the Boyden & Akeley Mill, the Emlaw Mill, the Batchellor, Slaght & Shippey Mill, and the White & Friant Mill. The Slaght & Shippey Mill was located in Ferrysburg, the others in Grand Haven. The next year the company built 10 miles of private logging railroad, which were abandoned about 1886. The firm apparently dissolved in 1886. However, "Grand Haven Lumber Co." was included in the 1887 and 1891 *Michigan Gazetteer and Business Directory*.

**1881 COOK, VANDERVEEN & CO. [1881- ?]**

Around 1881 Jacob formed a company with John W. Cook and an unnamed "Grand Haven lumberman" to carry out lumbering operations in Wisconsin. The business was named Cook, Vanderveen & Co. In mid-September 1881, the company purchased the Monroe, Boyce & Co. saw and shingle mill at Spring Lake, which they planned to move to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, where they had extensive holdings in real estate and equipment. The Spring Lake mill was to be converted into a combination band and circular mill.

**1881 GRAND HAVEN COURIER JOURNAL [1881-?]**

Hiram Potts in 1881 again moved his newspaper, this time from Spring Lake to Grand Haven, and called it the *Grand Haven Courier Journal*, giving it a Democratic slant. By 1892 H. G. Nichols was the owner, and the paper advertised itself as a “Republican Weekly.”

**1881 CHICAGO & WEST MICHIGAN RAILROAD CO. [1881-1917]**

On July 16, 1881 the Grand Haven Railroad Company merged with the Chicago & West Michigan Railway Company. Officers of the new company were Boston resident Nathaniel Thayer II, President; Charles Merriam, also of Boston, Secretary and Treasurer; George C. Kimball of Grand Rapids, General Manager; and Frederick A. Nims, from Muskegon, Attorney. The Chicago & West Michigan ran south to Holland, Allegan, and New Buffalo, where it joined the Michigan Central, and from Ferrysburg to Muskegon, Pentwater, and farther north. The company was sold at foreclosure on March 28, 1917 to Pere Marquette.

**1881 VYN SAWMILL [1881-?]**

Geert Vyn, brother of Derk Vyn, was a native of The Netherlands who immigrated to Zeeland, Michigan. In 1881 he opened a sawmill on the northwest side of Harbor Island to cut hardwood into lumber. He also sold bricks.

**1881 VAN LOPIK & SONS/G. P. VAN LOPIK CO. [1881-1944]**

Peter Van Lopik was born in Grand Haven in May 1861. At the age of 20 he started a general store with his father, Gerrit, and brother Antony [Anton] and called it Van Lopik & Sons. It was located in the building that later housed Hostetter’s News Agency on the northwest corner of Washington and Second Streets. In 1885 the store was moved to 209 Washington Street, where it remained for the next ten years. Gerrit, who was born in 1822, retired about 1890, and Peter and Anthony operated the store as G. Van Lopik & Company. The store moved for a third time in 1895, occupying a building at 206 Washington that was erected after the 1889 fire. When Arie Van Tol and Gerrit Ekkens, Gerrit Van Lopik’s son-in-law, entered the business in 1907, the Van Lopiks turned to other enterprises. That same year Peter Van Lopik established a second family business, the G. P. Van Lopik Company, to make naval blouses, raincoats, and uniforms for the Coast Guard. He also was the first local manufacturer to produce surfmen’s supplies. The quality of his product brought Grand Haven into prominence. Van Lopik traveled to all parts of the country and became acquainted with the best-known marine men in the country. He later added a ladies’ midgy department to his thriving business. When that garment was particularly popular, he supplied some of the largest retail outlets in the country, and some of his best customers were students at Akeley Institute. The 5,800 sq. ft. factory, located on an upper floor of the “New” Cutler House on the southwest corner of Washington and Third Streets [234 Washington], later was operated by Gerrit Peter Van Lopik, who took over the business when his father was appointed postmaster in 1915. The younger Van Lopik also owned and operated the Central Clothing Store in downtown Grand Haven. Antony died in 1903, four years before his father, and Peter passed away in 1929. Peter’s son, Gerrit Peter Van Lopik, continued the manufacturing business and the Central Clothing Store in downtown Grand Haven after his father’s death. Around 1940 he manufactured sportswear on the second floor of 216 North Seventh Street. In 1944 the Grand Haven Novelty Company purchased the assets of the Van Lopik Company, then located in the 600 block of Fulton Street, for the production of non-clothing items.

**1881 CREAGER & CILLEY PLANING MILL [1881-?]**

Formed in the spring of 1881 through a partnership between James J. Cilley and Marvin H. Creager, the Creager & Cilley Planing Mill was located in a building erected near the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad Depot [later the Pere Marquette Depot at the corner of Fourth and Jackson Streets].

**1881 BRYCE, BLOECKER & GALLMEYER/ H. BLOECKER MARINE ENGINE WORKS**  
[1881-?]

In May 1881 John Bryce, Henry Bloecker and Christian Gallmeyer formed a partnership and rebuilt the Grand Haven Iron Works, which had burned down that year. They named their business Bryce, Bloecker & Gallmeyer, which was located on Lot 92 on the northeast corner of Elliott and First Streets [approximately 200 North First]. At one time the firm was referred to as John Bryce & Company Foundry. After the fire, the owners rebuilt across the street on Lot 85 [approximately 201 North First]. Bloecker, a native of Germany, had learned the machinist trade in his home country and had been an employee of the Ottawa Iron Works in Ferrysburg until 1878. The new facilities included a 100' x 34' machine shop, a 48' x 34' molding shop, and a 24' x 30' blacksmith shop. A railroad spur ran behind the building and ample dockage was close by. The company manufactured marine engines and pattern guides for circular saw and employed about 40 men. One or more of these buildings burned down in February 1882 and caused extensive damage. Gallmeyer later moved to Grand Rapids and was Mayor of that city from 1918 to 1920. Normally the Works employed 40 men and had a good reputation throughout the Great Lakes as a builder of marine engines and pattern guides for circular saws. Thomas A. Parish was an employee of the Grand Haven Iron Works, and William F. Dake, a draftsman and pattern maker at the Ottawa Iron Works, joined Grand Haven Iron works in 1880 and stayed until the Dake Engine Company was organized in 1887. A picture of the buildings in the 1893 *Compendium* still showed the name Grand Haven Iron Works above the door, but the advertisement was for Henry Bloecker & Co. In 1894 the business was known as H. Bloecker Marine Engine Works. At that time the company manufactured marine engines and also had a general sawmill and a steamboat and did wood turning and repairs. In 1892 the company's total payroll for its 30 hands amounted to \$1,400. The 1912 *Standard Atlas of Ottawa County* showed the company still functioning at the same site, although Bloecker had died two years earlier.

**1881 B. & A. D. FESSENDEN & CO. [1881-1882]**

The B. & A.D. Fessenden Company, a large woodenware firm, was moved to Grand Haven from Townsend, Massachusetts when Benjamin and his father, Aaron D. Fessenden, in 1881 bought out the Glover and Tate Tub Factory. It employed 25-60 men for the manufacture of fish kits and barrels staves for fish and syrup packaging. It was located near the foot of Third Street, east of the Boyden & Akeley shingle mill. Fredrick A. Larkin was junior partner and manager, and John Gardner was foreman. In 1882 Silas Kilbourn & Co. bought the Fessenden Company.

**1882 SILAS KILBOURN [KILBOURNE] & CO. [1882-1904]**

In 1882 Silas Kilbourn & Co. was incorporated and purchased B. & A. D. Fessenden & Company. Under Kilbourn the firm grew to be the largest packaging manufacturer in West Michigan. The company began production in buildings previously owned by Lewis Planing Co., which were destroyed by fire on August 30, 1891. The plant resumed manufacture in a new building the following December 18. Besides fish and syrup packages, the firm also manufactured jelly kits and pickle and cider kegs. Around 1900 the company added the Glidden Double-Action washing machine to its list of products. A sawmill was operated in conjunction with the kit and pail factory. A kit was a wooden tub or pail, usually circular. In 1892 the company employed 150 hands and their payroll ran into the thousands monthly. The business amounted to \$100,000 annually.

Locally this business was always called the "barrel factory." George Christman of Spring Lake worked there for many years, and the Museum received from his estate the cooperage tools used in his work and a "kit." Another employee, Henry J. Dornbos, lost an eye when a barrel stave flew back and hit him, forcing him to change his vocation and on May 2, 1889.

Kilbourn's products were made from lumber that was usually regarded as waste material. The Kilbourn market stretched from Detroit and Toledo to the Pacific Ocean on the west, and from

Winnipeg to New Orleans. The plant was located on the South Channel near the foot of Third Street and was taken over by the firm of Kilbourn & Kilbourn in 1904.

**1882 MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO. [1882-present]**

Thomas Parish, working out of his home at 324 Washington, installed Grand Haven's first telephone exchange in 1882 with 25 subscribers. Service was crude by any standard. At first utility poles are not used. Instead wires were strung from almost any convenient spot above ground, including roofs of buildings and tall trees. There were frequent interruptions in service, and it was almost as easy to open the window and shout as it was to attempt to talk over the phone. Parish built a new home at the same address after the original structure was destroyed in the fire of 1889, and presumably he continued his telephone business from that location. Later, when underground wires were installed, it was reported that ferrets were used to run cables through the conduits. Early records revealed that a private line was first installed from the Rix Robinson Engine House to City Hall at Fifth and Washington Streets in 1879, and by 1882 connections had been made with Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Whitehall, Montague, and other towns. It was a source of great curiosity and people used to line up "just to see if it worked." The telephone continued to grow with the community and to have a part in the growth of Grand Haven itself. Since the time of the first exchange, the system was completely rebuilt and more facilities added from time to time. In 1930 the local company merged with Bell Telephone Company and located at a new building, 501 Washington Street in Grand Haven.

Dial telephone service, along with direct long-distance dialing, came to Grand Haven late in 1960. When Grand Haven's telephone service changed from manual to dial service, the area's new numbering system was made up of seven numbers, beginning with 842, instead of two letters and five numbers. Prior to that rural numbers usually were party lines, and the phone numbers ended in one or more digits, indicating the number of long and short rings for that particular line. For instance, 7105-F12 might have signified one short and two long rings to alert the occupants to a phone call. In the City of Grand Haven, numbers varied from 1 for the Dornbos Fish Market at 614 Monroe to 3230-W for the Barney Peterson home on Griffin. In the Village of Spring Lake in the late 1950s many numbers, already on the dial system, were prefixed with VI [Viking]. Area codes had not yet been introduced.

**1882 GRAND HAVEN WATER WORKS/NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SUPPLY [1882-present]**

A new water pump was started at 11:00 p.m. on January 11, 1882 to serve the residents of Grand Haven. The pump, made in Port Huron, could produce about 1,250,000 gallons a day, and originally served only the business section of the city. The plant was located near the river on the southwest corner of Clinton and Harbor [Lot 3]. Later, the offices of the electric light company were located in the same building. Henry Sanford, who lived on Clinton Street near the Works, was the engineer. He also was water engineer for the Grand Haven Fire Department. When the privately held company failed in 1888, the City of Grand Haven took over. By 1892 John Palmer was Superintendent of the Works. [However, another source listed Augustus Cosgrove as Superintendent at the same time.] In 1912 water tanks were built on top of a wooded dune in order to ensure consistent water pressure and to have a reserve on hand. At some point the water system was relocated to a brick building at 1510 Washington and called the Wiley Water Works.

In 1927 a new water filtration plant was built at 6 Sherman Street in Grand Haven to produce two million gallons of water a day. Three collector wells were added in 1952 to meet the demands of a growing population. Ten years later, as existing wells began to fail, a submerged intake system was built under Lake Michigan's sandy bottom and pumped to the Sherman Street plant for treatment. In 1975 an agreement extended the availability of water to Spring Lake Township and

Ferrysburg. The Northwest Ottawa Water Filtration plant, at 30 Sherman Street, went into operation in 1986 and processed 15.5 million gallons per day.

**1882 SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN [1882-present]**

The Second Christian Reformed Church grew out of the First Christian Reformed when it was located at 418 Fulton Avenue. The breakaway church was first referred to as the Free Independent Reformed Church. It started with about 60 families, who were meeting in a new edifice as early as January 22, 1881. They paid approximately \$1,200 for the lot and \$2,425 for the building, which was located at the corner of Fifth and Columbus Streets [503-507 Columbus]. Rev. Roelof Duiker, the first Pastor, received \$600 per year. Rev. Peter D. Van Vliet was Pastor when the church shifted from using Dutch to English in its services, a transition completed by 1910. Local leaders of the church were Cornelius Van Zanten, Tys Groenendal, Abel Poel, Ruth Brower, Cornelius Bos, and John J. Bolt. On October 18, 1882, the congregation decided to join the Christian Reformed movement, and then referred to themselves as the Second Reformed Church of Grand Haven. A new building was constructed at 2021 Sheldon in 1965 and added to in 2002.

**1882 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN SPRING LAKE [1882-present]**

In 1882 thirty-five families, tired of the journey into Grand Haven to worship at the Christian Reformed Church there, formed their own church. They soon purchased a lot at 212 North Division Street and began construction and called their organization the Holland Christian Reformed Church. Community leaders who participated in the founding of the church were Gerrit Teunis, Klaas Bloem, Ruitter, Rozema, Koster, Vander Zwag, and Kuper. The first meeting was held there on May 23, 1882. The next year, in July Rev. Peter Ekster, uncle of local resident Etta Bolt, was called as the first minister at a salary of \$600 a year, plus housing and fuel. He was followed during the next fifty years by Rev. John Post, who inaugurated the use of English language in the services, Dr. C. Van Til, and Rev. J. P. De Vries. A parsonage was purchased in the 1880s at 213 Liberty, and in 1897 a lot north of the church, 210 North Division, was obtained. In 1937 the congregation changed its name to the Spring Lake Christian Reformed Church. After several additions and changes to the building, on June 28, 1962 the membership moved their place of worship to a new building at 364 South Lake.

**1882 ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST [1882-present]**

In the spring of 1882 a number of Evangelical Germans living in Grand Haven and the surrounding area formed an Evangelical congregation. Working with them were some people who previously had been members of the Missouri-Lutheran Church. They turned to Pastor F. Mueller in Grand Rapids, who belonged to Missouri-Lutheran Synod, with the request that he help them form an Evangelical congregation, which was done on April 10, 1882. The members named their church the Evangelical-Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation. Fredrich Schmidt, Ferdinand Knapwurst, and Ludwig Behm were elected trustees, and William Thieleman was named Secretary. Later Franz Koatz, Fredrich Kramer, and August Hoffmeister were elected Elders.

The congregation was served at first as a mission, with preaching and other official acts carried out by a visiting pastor. After Pastor Mueller had preached several times, he was unanimously elected and called by the congregation to become pastor. He refused the election and call, however, because he did not wish to leave his congregation in Grand Rapids. Then Pastor Christopher Zimmerman, at the time a traveling preacher of the German Evangelical Mission Society of New York and residing in Ann Arbor, was elected unanimously on August 21, 1882, after he had given a trial sermon. On October 5, he and his family moved to Grand Haven and he gave his initial sermon on the following Sunday, October 8.

Because the congregation did not have its own church building, services were held in various locations, starting in the English-speaking Presbyterian Church. The long-term use of that space was subsequently refused. Then the congregation accepted Dwight Cutler's offer to use the hall of Cutler House for worship services as long as necessary. From the beginning the congregation wanted its own house of worship, and the members took the necessary steps to find one. Since pledges for a building had been collected, a lot on the southeast corner of Fulton and Seventh Streets [700 Fulton] was purchased for \$775. A building committee consisting of Julius Radeke, Carl Hass, August Ferch, Charles Pfaff, and William Thieleman was elected and started work in late 1892 and early 1893 to plan and direct the construction. The carpentry work was turned over to Ludwig Behm and Fr. Grubenow. Because of the continuing cold, the cornerstone wasn't laid until April 8, 1893.

Rev. Christopher Zimmerman was Pastor from 1882 to 1885, Rev. J. R. Judd ministered from 1886 to 1888, Rev. Frederick Roese from 1888 to 1895, and Rev. Lars Hagen from 1895 to 1905. The church was raised in 1902 to accommodate a basement. Rev. Jacob Hetzel ministered from 1908 to 1911. His daughters, Lydia and Freida, prepared Easter and Christmas programs for the children in German. The parsonage was located in the house immediately south of the church on Seventh Street. Here Rev. Wilhelm Koch lived with his family of talented children, Margaret, Otto, and Arnold. Their beautiful voices served to enhance the choir. Son Otto's strong voice led him to sing in the high school quartet and in a quartet with Dr. Willard Bloemendal and Bastian Van Woerkom.

Catechism classes were held after school, once or twice a week, in a small room behind the sanctuary. There, a small wood stove heated the classroom. The church was heated with one large coal furnace located beneath the catechism room. Two large register vents located in the front of the sanctuary heated the entire church. Those preferring to sit in the back of the church received very little warmth. Coats and boots were always worn during winter services. Eventually, the high sanctuary ceiling was lowered to keep the heat closer to the people in the congregation.

During these years the women gathered to form a Serving Circle for refreshments. Henrietta Boseker, wife of August Boseker, usually had the job of making the coffee. Because there were no electric stoves, the coffee was cooked on a wood range, mixed with eggs, and placed in a large granite coffeepot. The serving circle worked throughout the year in making embroidered pillowcases and knitted socks and scarves for the Christmas bazaar. This bazaar was very popular with the children, because they could play games and receive grab bags with small amounts of money.

Services were held in German until the beginning of World War I. When war was declared people of German descent were frowned upon, and during Rev. Koch's ministry services were converted to English. There were, however, two services each year preached in German in order to please the congregation. Additionally, in the summer, Rev. Koch would teach German to the children of the congregation, as well as children from the Highland Park resort. Rev. Koch ministered from 1913 to 1936. He was very strict but had a kind heart for his parishioners. He served both St. Paul's and St. Peter's church in Grand Haven Township. At times it was difficult to raise his salary of \$750 per year. When cash was tight, township parishioners would provide potatoes, cabbage, fruits, and other items for his supply of winter food.

Rev. Arthur Ebeling served from 1936 to 1943. He was a young minister and he greatly improved membership. About the same time the Women's Guild was organized, which later was known as Women's Fellowship. The first female deacon served on the church council, a change that was not graciously accepted by some of the men of the church.

Following Ebeling were Reverends Karl Detroy, John Kort, and Arthur Zillgritt. Rev. Zillgritt and his wife Hope took part in the church choir. Rev. Zillgritt also established the first Youth

Program. The congregation approved the purchase of a new parsonage on Marion Street for the Zillgritt family. In 1961 the church paid \$7,000 for a four-acre parcel as a site for a new church. During Rev. Richard Adams ministry plans for the new church were drawn. The original church on Fulton was purchased by Manting Equipment Company, and in 1969 the new \$219,135 church at 1401 South Griffin Street in Grand Haven was ready for occupancy. Twelve years later, the original 1887 bell from the old church was hung in the newly financed bell tower.

Rev. J. Lawrence Dannemiller served as Pastor from 1976 to 1990. In 1984 the mortgage of the new church was paid off, and about the same time the Memorial Garden was established. Located beyond the north wall of the sanctuary, the Garden was for those who wished to be cremated. The two grids were designed so that each could accommodate the ashes of fifty people.

**1883 CHALLENGE CORN PLANTER CO./CHALLENGE REFRIGERATOR CO. [1883-1929]**

Incorporated in 1883, Challenge Corn Planter assumed the business of Wait Manufacturing Company. Original officers were Willard C. Sheldon, President, George Stickney, Secretary-Treasurer, Levi Scofield, Superintendent, and additional Directors were Dwight Cutler, Dwight Cutler II, and William Savidge. The plant occupied 20 acres of ground near the northeast corner of Seventh [Beacon] and Jackson Streets and consisted of at least ten separate buildings by 1912. Twenty years of perfecting, improving, manufacturing, and selling corn planting machines had brought the company in contact with most of the dealers in agricultural implements throughout the corn growing districts of the United States. Meanwhile, since 1883, the "Corn Planter Company" also had been manufacturing refrigerators, which were known and sold all over the United States. The Challenge Iceberg Refrigerator was scientifically designed for cooling efficiency. The inside and outside case were kiln-dried lumber and pure wood charcoal was used as insulation. In 1900 the name of the company was changed to the Challenge Refrigerator Company. In 1907 Herman F. Harbeck became President of the corporation, and under his leadership it grew to be one of the largest makers of refrigerators in the country. A few years later the company became associated with the Challenge Porcelain Company for the manufacture of porcelain liners for the "ice box." The Challenge icebox on display in the Tri-Cities Historical Museum was the "Grand" model. It had a galvanized metal lining, which was painted white in the food compartment. Normally the company employed 350 men but had capacity for as many as 500 men. It manufactured refrigerators, corn planters, check rowers, and corn drills. The original Challenge Company ceased manufacturing operations on July 1, 1929 and was finally dissolved late in 1930, to be superseded by Challenge Stamping & Porcelain, under the leadership of Challenge Refrigerator's chief executive, Adrian Ringelberg.

**1883 JOHN W. VERHOEKS & CO. [1883-@1905]**

John Verhoeks and Henry Fase opened a dry goods, grocery, and family medicine store in 1883. Ver Hoeks sold out about 1905.

**1884 GRAND HAVEN MATCH CO. [1884-1887]**

Grand Haven Match started in 1884 to make parlor and sulfur matches. Managed by Frederick F. Sommers, who also had a plant in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the company employed 75 men. It first was located on Taylor Street near today's Beacon Boulevard and later on Harbor Drive. It was absorbed by the Diamond Match Company and moved to Saginaw in 1887.

**1885 GRAND HAVEN LEATHER CO. [1885-1901]**

In 1884 the Metz Leather Company of Holland bought Clark Albee's Tannery from the mortgagee, Robert W. Duncan, and used it for the manufacture of sole leather. The plant was situated on 50 acres along the Grand River in Section 22 of Grand Haven Township. According to company minutes, the plant burned down in 1885. That year Arend J. Nyland and others

bought out the Metz Company and organized the Grand Haven Leather Company with a capital stock of \$100,000, including \$25,000 invested in buildings and the balance in equipment and working capital. Derk Vyn was vice president, John Vaupell, secretary, George Stickney, treasurer. Cornelius Nyland was superintendent, and Herman Nyland represented the company on the road.

The first year they employed about twenty men and the value of their output that year was between \$35,000 and \$40,000. When the building burned to the ground in 1885 the owners were forced to take their stock to Fremont to be rolled. The factory soon was rebuilt on Beechtree Street and the business incorporated in 1887 with Arend Nyland, President, Dirk Vyn, Vice President, George Stickney, Treasurer, and John Vaupell [Vaupel], Secretary. It employed 40 men manufacturing harness, skirting, line, strap, and collar leather. It had a monthly payroll of about \$1,800. They expanded their line to include calfskins and harness leather, upper shoe leather, skirting or saddle leather, and similar fine-grained products. They specialized in making red, orange, and russet skirting for saddles. By 1892 they were employing 50 men, but still with a monthly payroll of \$1,800. The annual business had increased to \$125,000. They could handle 400 hides per week. Two thousand cords of tan bark [hemlock] were required annually. The success of this concern was due largely to the skill, experience, and wise management of Nyland, who had learned the trade in 1848. Before coming to Grand Haven, he had been in charge of the tannery of the Hermann Zohrlaut Leather Co. in Milwaukee for seven years, and then had been in charge of the Cappon & Bertsch tanneries in Holland for fourteen years. The products of the Grand Haven Leather Company were sold throughout the south and west, including Chicago, St. Louis, Nashville, Memphis, Cincinnati, Quincy, Illinois, Louisville, Paducah, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Boston. George Hutchinson was their leading salesman.

In 1892 the plant in Grand Haven covered five acres and included a hide house, tan yard, lime house, warehouse, and currying shop. It was located near the summer home of Rix Robinson's wife's Indian parents on land that once was an Indian burial ground and the site of the historical "Beech Tree" that gave the street its name. In 1898 the firm took over the neighboring Richter's Tannery, which had started in 1889. In 1899 Nelson Howlett was president of the company, Derk Vyn vice president, John Vaupell secretary, and George Stickney treasurer. Cornelius Nyland acted as superintendent. Howlett and Vyn were major stockholders. The business depression of the early 1900s caused the company to sell out to Eagle Tannery on December 22, 1900, for \$10,000, plus an additional \$4,000 from the Grand Haven Board of Trade, also referred to as the "Improvement Association."

#### **1885 VENTURE/EVENING TRIBUNE/GRAND HAVEN TRIBUNE [1885-present]**

In 1885 Edward Northrup bought the *Daily Herald* and on May 1 changed its name to *The Evening Venture*. It later was renamed the *Evening Tribune*, after that it became the *Grand Haven Daily Tribune*, and ultimately it was known as the *Grand Haven Tribune*. Charles K. Esler and Joseph Esler bought the paper from Northrup around 1887. Charles Esler became editor, and Horrace G. Nichols was hired as printer. Nichols, who already owned the *Grand Haven Courier Journal*, purchased the paper in 1891 for \$1,500 and continued as owner-publisher until 1915. At that time he sold the business to his son, Harry, and Kingsbury Scott. The firm subscribed to UPI [United Press International] wire services on September 6, 1924. When Ernest J. McCall and Felix M. Church bought the paper in February 1927, it was called the *Grand Haven Tribune*. At that time the paper's circulation was 2,536. It was during McCall's ownership that the newspaper moved from 120 Washington to a new facility at 101 North Third in 1938. McCall died in 1950 and his son, Almon W. McCall, and nephew, J. Watson McCall, took over. The McCalls sold the business in 1969 to the Grand Haven Publishing Company. Circulation by this date had grown to 7,850. In 1984 the publisher was Alice Rau, who was one of the principals of the Grand Haven Publishing Company, and Fred Vanden Brand, a former reporter, was managing editor.



**1885 GRAND HAVEN GAS WORKS CO./GRAND HAVEN GAS LIGHT CO. [1885-?]**

At an undisclosed date, Stephen L. Munroe and William H. Loutit purchased the Grand Haven Gas Works Co., a utility organized in 1885 to provide natural gas for local residents. Loutit had worked as an operator at the Works when it opened. The company also was known as the Grand Haven Gas Light Company. Loutit and Munroe were listed as officers in the 1908 *City Directory*. City Hall, then at the southwest corner of Fifth and Washington, was the first to convert from gasoline to natural gas lamps. On December 6, 1888 the City Council voted to replace gasoline lamps with natural gas on selected streets, beginning with Third Street at the intersections with Columbus, Fulton, Elliott, and Madison [Jackson], and at the Pere Marquette Railway Station on Madison. The cost to the consumer in the early days was \$1.75 per 1,000 cubic feet. The first building was constructed that year on Lots 35 and 36 on the southeast corner of Harbor Drive and Lafayette Street [310 South Harbor]. The storage tank built on that site held 25,000 cubic feet of gas. Gas was conveyed to consumers through underground wooden pipes, which were reinforced with wire.

In 1910 the Gas Works was acquired by W. E. Moss & Co., which also operated in Monroe, Hillsdale, and Coldwater. The company started furnishing artificial gas to Grand Haven in 1927, when it was purchased by National Utilities Co. of Michigan, a subsidiary of National Gas & Electric Corp. The company enlarged the Harbor Drive facility and maintained an office in downtown Grand Haven [136 Washington]. Coal gas from hand-fired ovens was used until 1943. The old gas plant was kept as a standby until 1945. In September 1946 the service was changed to propane gas, which came in liquid form and was vaporized at the local plant. In May 1950, natural gas piped from Texas fields was introduced and the local production of gas ceased. A new name, Michigan Gas Utilities [MGU], was adopted on September 1, 1951, after National Gas & Electric Corporation was dissolved. In 1964 MGU opened a new service center at 310 Harbor at a cost of \$100,000 and closed its downtown office at 134 Washington. At that time Michigan Gas had 1,500 miles of lines and served 54,000 customers throughout the state. In 1995 the utility, which served 18,300 area customers, moved from Harbor Drive to a larger facility with 10,000 sq. ft. on a five-acre site at 1708 Eaton Drive. Officials said the \$1.2 million facility would make operations more convenient for employees and customers. The company had 23 local employees and a fleet of trucks to service its West Michigan customers, which numbered 8,000 in 1968 and 18,300 in 1995. Corporate headquarters remained in Monroe, Michigan.

**1885 GRAND HAVEN BROOM CO. [1885-?]**

Grand Haven Broom Company started around 1885. Henry W. Buswell, whose sawmill [Wyman & Buswell/Wyman & Cairns] burned down in 1884, became part owner and President of the broom factory. Other owners were George A. Farr I, Charles N. Dickinson, Warner A. Norcross, and Walter I. Lillie, Manager. An invoice dated October 9, 1885 listed “2 Dry Parlor Brooms @\$2.50,” among other items. A special note was entered on the invoice, signed “per Norcross:” “On the first order we sometimes make it an object for a merchant to change dealers in addition to furnishing a better class of goods. Our business is not making 10% and if we discount that then we do business only for the fun of it. Broom corn is now 33% higher than it was a year ago and we will fill no more orders at cut prices or discount no matter who takes or sends the orders.” The company advertised itself as carrying “All Kinds of Brooms and Brushes.”

**1886 HIGHLAND PARK ASSOCIATION [1886-present]**

On May 10, 1886 a group of local businessmen and summer visitors formed the Highland Park Association with the intention of building a summer resort. They took out a 30-year lease on Lot 3 in Section 29 for a dollar a year from the City of Grand Haven. The city had bought the land on May 7, 1884 for \$350. In 1887 Loch Hame, the first cottage, was completed, across from the Khardomah Lodge on Lake Avenue and noted for the beech tree growing through its front porch.

Charter members of the Park Association included Grand Haven lumber baron Dwight Cutler I, and the town lawyers, doctors, and merchants with names like Boyce, Bottje, Kirby, Walkley, and Vander Veen. Other founding members were summer guests from Chicago and St. Louis. The Association raised \$5,000 by selling shares at \$25 each. Although most shareholders bought one or two shares, Dwight Cutler had the most with 12 shares. One of the early presidents of the Association was Thomas Parish. By 1917 and the start of World War I, about 107 cottages had been built, often under difficult circumstances since there were few roads and lumber had to be carried by hand up to the dunes' crests. More recently the number of cottages declined slightly to 101, mostly because of the extension of the Lake Avenue to the shoreline. This new road to the beach cut off the cottages north of Lake Avenue, although these remained part of the Highland Park Association.

**1887    DAKE ENGINE MFG. CO./DAKE CORP. [1887-present]**

Established in January 1887 as the Dake Engine Company on the northwest corner of Seventh and Monroe Streets, the original officers were Thomas Cairnes, president; Harvey P. Wyman vice president; and James P. Armstead, secretary and treasurer. In addition to the officers, directors were Charles Wyman, Dwight Cutler II, H. B. Peck, and William F. Dake. The company was established with a capital stock of \$100,000. The principal line of manufacture consisted of engines of a special style and covered by a number of patents, termed the Dake double reciprocating square piston engine. The makers claimed that they were the most compact engines manufactured, being in a form that enabled them to be applied to any machinery at small cost. They were durable and repairs cost little. They were self-contained, and in applying the engine directly to machinery all that was required was to adapt the engine shaft to such machinery by coupling or directly through the machine it was attached to and bolted down. In all, eight sizes of the Dake engine were made, adapted to a variety of machinery. Numerous testimonials attested to the practical value of these engines, but a most convincing argument in their favor was the fact that the company's business increased at the rate of 25 % annually. In 1893 the Dake steam engine won a medal at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

The plant of the Dake Engine Company covered about an acre, and four buildings were used in the various departments of manufacture, the largest being a brick structure 40 x 70 feet. The company in those early years had sales of about \$50,000 annually, employed 20, and disbursed \$500 monthly in wages. In 1905 a change of personnel was caused by the death of George R. Wyman, whose faithful service and perseverance had brought the company to a high level of recognition. Dake merged with Archie Campbell's foundry. Before the merger the plants had operated in connection with one another, but at the same time they were entirely independent concerns. Thomas Johnston became president of the new concern, Archie Campbell, vice president, Jay F. Johnston, treasurer, and James P. Armstead, secretary and general manager. Armstead and Wyman were members of the old company. The steam-powered steering gears, windlasses, hoisting engines, and other machines were invented by founder William F. Dake and were known to engineers throughout the country. Paul Johnson I, Bernath P. Sherwood I, and Alvin Jacobson I bought the company on April 24, 1940, and two of their sons, Paul Johnson II and Chuck Jacobson, took over the management a year later. Following WWII the primary product line was arbor presses. Foundry work was discontinued in 1950.

The name of the company was changed to Dake Corporation in 1955. When U.S. 31 was improved Dake in 1957 moved to a new ten-acre site on the south side of Robbins Road [741 Robbins], near the C&O. railroad tracks, at a cost of \$500,000. On December 6, 1979 Donn De Young was named president and general manager, effective December 17, by action of the company Board of Directors. De Young succeeded Paul A. Johnson, who recently had been elected vice chairman of the board of JSJ Corp. De Young retired from his position in 1986. He was followed by Frank Leach, who retired in 1991. In the fall of 2019, Dake was acquired by

Laguna Tools of Irvine, California. The plant is now located at 1809 Industrial Park Drive in Grand Haven.

**1887 SPRING LAKE CLINKER BOAT MFG. CO./SPRING LAKE BOAT CO./BARRETT BOAT WORKS/PIER 33 [1887-present]**

Formed in 1887 by Dr. Cyril P. Brown, President, C. Alton Pearson, Vice President and Superintendent, Herman F. Harbeck, Secretary, and F. C. Bury, Secretary-Treasurer, Spring Lake Clinker Boat Company used Harrison C. Pearson's patents and sold boats throughout the world. By 1895 William Barrett was listed as Vice President and Manager, replacing Pearson, and the next year Dana Brown was Secretary-Treasurer, while his father, Cyril P. Brown, Barrett, and Harbeck were Directors. Clinker boats earned worldwide fame. "Clinker-built" meant that the external boards overlapped each other, much like clapboard on a house.

In 1899 the boat company built the first Spring Lake Yacht Club flagship. It was a 55-foot schooner named *Sallie*, and she had her first trial run on August 15 the year she was built. Owned by brothers George and William Savidge, *Sallie* called Spring Lake home for many years and distinguished herself as one of the best schooners on the Great Lakes. She won the Walker Cup and a number of other regattas.

The company went out of business in 1901 and reorganized for ship storage as the Barrett Boat Work. The original building stood on the north side of the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks, between Park and Main Streets in Spring Lake, but later moved to 801 Liberty Street and then to 821 Savidge.

When Barrett died in 1917, his son and daughter, Robert and Ruby Barrett, carried on the business, until their mother died in 1943, when the children became full owners. A later owner was local dentist, Dr. Jack Jordan. Pier 33 bought out Barrett Boat Works in 1997 and erected a new building on the old site at 821 West Savidge in Spring Lake. Pier 33 went out of business in 2000.

**1887 ROBBINS COAL, LIME & CEMENT CO. [1887-1940]**

In 1887 Nat Robbins bought the coal, lime, and cement business, previously owned by H. L. Chamberlain and C. B. Winslow & Company, situated along the river at the foot of Washington Street in Grand Haven. Robbins improved and expanded the business, which prospered until his death in 1940.

**1888 CUTTER FACTORY [1888-1900]**

The Cutter Factory employed about 20 men in the manufacture of sleighs, cutters, and sleds. Located south and west of the Grand River bridge, it lasted 12 years before failing in 1900.

**1888 AKELEY INSTITUTE [1888-1928]**

Healey C. Akeley, an attorney, arrived in Grand Haven from the east in 1858 and in 1874 teamed up with Charles Boyden to form the Boyden & Akeley Shingle Mill, at one time the world's largest. Akeley, in 1881, at a cost in excess of \$20,000, provided the Unitarian Church with its first permanent housing. Before departing from Grand Haven in 1888 because of the dwindling lumber trade, he gave the Episcopalian Diocese in Western Michigan the financial means to begin the first private school for girls in that half of the state. That year Akeley made an agreement with Bishop Gillespie of the Episcopalian Diocese that the Akeley mansion on the corner of Washington and Fifth Streets, then valued at \$47,000, would be used to honor Akeley's deceased daughter through its conversion to a facility to educate young women. In memory of his daughter, it was named Blanche Hall. A similar offer of bequest was first made to the Presbyterian Church, but it was rejected.

Names included on the list of original trustees were Dwight Cutler, George W. McBride, and William P. Savidge. Churches throughout the diocese sent gifts and awards, so that by 1887 \$40,000 had been collected from church members for upkeep and expansion. Bishop Gillespie himself advanced the school money when needed. In 1890, when the school reached capacity, the Bishop erected a new building on the southeast corner of Columbus and Fifth Streets, which was to be dedicated as Lathrop Hall in honor of his wife. However, it was more popularly known among the students as Gillespie Hall. Described in school publications as “a large and handsome edifice and one of the most complete school structures in this part of the state, presenting many architectural features of attractiveness,” its construction enabled the school to expand from 20 to 50 boarding students and maintain the 40-person maximum of day and music students. Kitchen, dining room, and assembly facilities were on the first floor, a music practice hall and gymnasium with a 16-foot ceiling were on the second floor, and St. George’s Chapel was located on the third floor. At the building’s dedication various persons broke ground and read an appropriate verse from scripture. Later that year the Slayton home on Washington was acquired to serve as a music building with rooms above for younger children’s bedrooms. Called St. Margarets, it housed fourteen pianos including a concert grand. With that acquisition the whole block which is now the City Square was institute property.

Each year the course of instruction was improved until the institute ranked with the leading schools in the west. This reputation allowed it to acquire a nationally representative corps of students. Though primarily a finishing school, it had a special curriculum for entrance to the University of Michigan. Since most of the faculty was from the finest eastern colleges, the girls were presented with an opportunity for certifying their admission to those schools also.

For \$650 a girl was housed and allowed to study the required class work in the arts; cooking, sewing, mending and general housework; and the “Swedish System” of physical education, including basketball, tennis, and golf, and several foreign languages. Also mandatory were reading, writing, and arithmetic. The girls received the finest instruction in voice, piano, dance, and drama from a permanent staff and visiting practicing professionals. Because of its excellent academic reputation the school was tagged with the misnomer Akeley College. The institute felt it was attracting too many girls interested in college preparation, so the administrators began the area’s first kindergarten and made other attempts to attract younger girls.

Commencement was naturally the year’s high point for the girls, and every effort was made to make it a splendid affair. Girls practiced oratory and musical performances in anticipation of that day. It was attended by the Bishop, clergy from Grand Rapids and Muskegon, and local civic leaders. Until her death in 1901, Mary A. White, the area’s first school teacher, always was assured of a special seat reserved for especially for her.

Upon departing from Akeley, many girls went on to make fine records for themselves both in colleges and in special callings after their college work had been completed. They were able to excel as journalists, lawyers, missionaries, librarians, and in other professions in an age of marked sexism.

The girls attended services in St. George’s Chapel each day and on Sundays they could be seen in uniform passing two by two across Washington Street to St. John’s Episcopal Church. Several girls became members of the St. John’s choir. To do so, they were carefully chaperoned to and from school. Every All Saint’s Day was a holiday at Akeley Hall because of the annual arrival of the Bishop. After the death of Bishop Gillespie, his successor, Bishop McKormick, continued this tradition and took an equally active part in the institute’s board.

Because of its location the school could advertise “splendid recreational facilities for long hikes in the woods, beach parties, rowing, skiing, skating, and sliding.” However, the school prospectus failed to mention the character that any such adventures necessarily took on. Whenever the girls

left the school campus, they were greeted by raucous boys yelling, “Rooty-toot, rooty-toot, here come the girls from the Institoot,” and similar taunts. Generally, the presence of the school principals, the Yerkes sisters, seemed sufficiently dignified to these boys to quiet their jeers. Local boys attended St. John’s to get a glimpse of the girls and to leave notes for them in the hymnals. The trees and bushes of Grand Haven’s Central park were also used as repositories for notes. The most daring young men climbed the walls of Blanche Hall to fling notes in, or they would serenade the girls from below. Neither method was entirely successful, although not for lack of zeal; one never was quite sure whose window he was addressing. Neighbors of the Akeley property can recall the vision of girls in their long blue-skirted uniforms sneaking out the windows and down the rainspouts of Akeley Hall “for God knows what devilry.”

Integral to the history of Akeley Institute are the lives of co-principals Mary Helen Yerkes and her sister Susan Hill Yerkes, who devoted their lives to the last twenty-six years of the Institute’s operations. In Grand Haven they surrounded themselves with a teaching force notable for culture and high educational training. It was under their direction that Akeley Hall attained a unique place among institutions of its kind, which it held until its demise in 1926.

The City of Grand Haven greatly profited from the presence of Akeley Institute, yet Akeley never made much money. Businesses profited from the expenditures of the girls and the school. Peter Van Lopik, whose factory was located upstairs in the rebuilt Cutler House, manufactured the girls’ uniforms. All construction and maintenance of the Institute’s building was done by local firms: John Van Dongen and Sons did the masonry; Mr. Helcub did the stone cutting; and the carpentry was done by Stuveling, Gronevelt, Mol, Glerum, and Ver Berkmoes.

Furthermore, Akeley served the people of Grand Haven as a center for social and cultural life. Many were the delightful costume parties, charming musicals, clever plays, and inspirational lectures and entertainment hosted there. Professor Sparks of the University of Chicago conducted a series of lectures on American History, which the townspeople attended in numbers. Other such lectures were common and were the forerunner of the extension services so widely offered by colleges today. Many adults found the place useful for continued education; mothers of grown children often went back to school.

Elsewhere in the community the Akeley faculty actively contributed their social and cultural resources. Several factors contributed to the demise of Akeley Institute. Of primary importance were the exorbitant costs of modernization, the retirement of the Yerkes sisters, and the loss of local student attendance because cultural classes were adopted by public schools.

After the last Akeley class graduated in June 1928, there was some discussion of what to do with the property. Eventually it was sold by trustees and the proceeds were invested, the income from which continued to be used to advance the education of young women in the Western Michigan Diocese of the Episcopal Church. In 1892, a quitclaim deed had been given canceling all restrictions on the property; nevertheless, the trustees felt compelled to carry out the spirit of H. C. Akeley’s trust.

In 1929, Bell Telephone bought one portion of the property for \$13,000 to build its present offices; in 1933, the City purchased the remainder for \$18,000. The St. George’s Chapel furniture was donated to St. John’s Church; one piece, the litany desk, was used for many years. The suggestion to use the city-owned land for a hospital was rejected in favor of a City Square. [Adapted from an article by Brian R. Morrison.]

#### **1889 RICHTER’S TANNERY [1889-1898]**

Located at the eastern end of Fulton Street near the Grand Haven Leather Company [Eagle Ottawa], Richter’s Tannery employed five men and lasted from 1889 to 1898, when Grand Haven Leather absorbed it. Charles Richter of Grand Haven was the founder and owner.

**1889 H. J. DORNBOS & BROS. [1889-1963]**

Fishing had become an important industry by 1856. Two large companies from Milwaukee were operating with more than 300 nets outside the harbor and employed about 16 men. According to Leo Lillie, prior to 1856 the only fishing had been done by a few “stragglers half breeds and Indians,” who caught enough for their own use. By 1857 the Milwaukee fishermen were using 20 boats, representing an investment of \$16,000 and employing about 160 men. About 500 barrels per boat were considered a good catch each season. The export price was \$9.00 per barrel. Their market was in Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland. The 1858 season was poor, dropping the price to \$4.25 per barrel, with only 13 boats operating. A map of 1866 revealed numerous homes of fishermen across Grand River, adjacent to the train depot at the base of Dewey Hill. The fishing industry continued to grow. In 1867, 14 boats, operated by 70 men, engaged in fishing. By now the capital investment was \$28,000, and that year about 765,000 pounds of fish with a market value of \$45,360 were shipped. By 1882 Grand Haven had one of the most extensive commercial fishing businesses in the state. Steam tugs and a large number of small sail boats were engaged in catching whitefish, pickerel, trout, herring, and other varieties of fish.

On May 2, 1889 Henry J. Dornbos started a commercial fishing business with his brother, Gerrit. The pair sold door to door fish brought in by other individuals. Located at 614 Monroe in Grand Haven, it was destined to become one of the largest and best-equipped fishing industries in Michigan and became known nationwide for its smoked fish. It employed 40 to 50 people for years, distributing two million pounds of smoked whitefish chubs annually and carloads of salmon from Alaska and other Canadian and salt-water fish. H. J. Dornbos was born in the Netherlands in 1870 and came to Grand Haven in 1881. In 1926 the company shipped about 10,000 pounds of carp to New York for the Jewish New Year celebration. Dornbos owned no fishing tugs of his own, but instead purchased his product from local fishermen.

In 1949 Dornbos purchased H.C. Fischer & Sons Co. of Milwaukee, allowing more wide-spread distribution of their smoked fish. In 1951 Harold J. Dornbos, son and nephew of the founders, bought the business, and by that time the business was one of the largest suppliers of smoked fish in the country.

The business was destroyed by a botulism epidemic in 1963, traced to a load of Dornbos fish that sat in an unrefrigerated truck over the weekend. In February 1967 the Noble Company, a local plumbing business, purchased the Dornbos buildings and property at 614 Monroe to be used as a warehouse. For many years Dornbos had the number “1” telephone number in Grand Haven, before dialing was inaugurated. Dornbos started his business by selling smoked fish door-to-door.

**1889 SPRING LAKE BASKET FACTORY [1889-1898]**

The Spring Lake Basket Factory was in business in October 1889, with David M. Cline owning a one-third interest. He also ran the business. The building, located on the shore of Spring Lake at the north end of Alden Street, burned down on June 28, 1898, and the business was discontinued.

**1889 EXPRESS [1889-?]**

The 1893 *Historical and Business Compendium of Ottawa County* carried an advertisement for the newspaper *Express*, which claimed to be both a weekly and a daily. The ad continued, “The only Newspaper in Ottawa County Receiving Daily Telegraphic News. THE WEEKLY EXPRESS Contains Eight Pages of Six Columns each, with an average of Forty Columns of Solid Reading Matter in each issue. In Politics it is Independent, and will always be found advocating the rights of the People, and against the encroachments of Syndicates and Monopolies.” Daniel C. Wachs was the proprietor of Wachs & Wachs, Publishers. The first issue came out in 1889.

**1890 GRAND HAVEN FURNITURE CO. [1890-1895]**

Located at or near 702 North Sixth Street, just north of Monroe, Grand Haven Furniture was housed in a two-story, 50' x 200' frame building covered with sheet iron. The main floor was used for machinery work, and the second for cabinet making and finishing. The company employed 60 men and manufactured bedroom suites of oak and ash. It was organized in 1890 with a capital stock \$50,000. The factory's output was 100 suites per week. In 1892 the firm employed about 50 hands with a total monthly payroll of \$1,500. The officers of the company were Sherman H. Boyce, President; John D. Duursema, Vice President; Charles Christmas II, Secretary, Gerrit Vanden Bosch, Treasurer, G. Hazenberg, Superintendent, and Peter Pell, Foreman of the Cabinet Department. Pell, born in The Netherlands about 1854, had been a cabinet maker in Grand Rapids. The company claimed in an 1892 ad to manufacture "SUPERIOR LINES OF MEDIUM-PRICED CHAMBER SUITES. ARTISTIC, ELEGANT, CHEAP." The Sterling Furniture Company succeeded it in 1895.

**1890 BYRCE, BARNES, & GREEN MANUFACTURING CO. [1890- ?]**

The Bryce, Barnes [Barns], & Green Manufacturing Co. started business in 1890. Located at the corner of Elliott and Seventh Streets in Grand Haven, the company specialized in general planing, woodwork for interior finishing, stairways, sashes, doors, and blinds. The principals were John Bryce I, John W. Barnes, and M. L. Green.

**1891 NATIONAL BANK OF GRAND HAVEN [1891-1910]**

In 1891 the National Bank of Grand Haven assumed the assets of the First National Bank, whose charter had expired. Officers were Dwight Cutler I, President; Nelson R. Howlett, Vice President; and George Stickney, Cashier. Other Directors were Dwight Cutler II, William Savidge, Charles E. Wyman, George W. A. Smith, George Farr, and Sherman H. Boyce. Stickney resigned in 1901, the same year that the older Cutler died. Howlett then took the position of President, Farr became Vice President, and D. C. Oakes, Coopersville banker, was named Cashier. Oakes died in 1903 and was followed by Marvin W. Turner, who resigned three years later. William D. Van Loo was his successor. A savings department was added in 1901. On February 19, 1910, National merged with the newer Grand Haven State Bank, founded in 1902.

**1891 BERTSCHY BRICK & TILE CO. [1891-1906]**

Fred Bertschy purchased the former Weston, Dudley & Soule Brick plant from Dr J. O. Bates of Muskegon and Charles Begin of Spring Lake in September 1889. The new business was incorporated as the Fred J. Bertschy & Company in 1891 and did a thriving business on the northeast shore of Stahl's Bayou, three miles north on the west shore of Spring Lake. The company's bricks were used in the Ottawa County Court House, the Grand Haven High School, the Spring Lake Methodist Episcopal Church, and other buildings throughout the area. When Bertschy took on John L. Shoemaker of Spring Lake as his partner, the plant was named the Bertschy & Shoemaker Brick Yard and turned out 20,000 bricks per day. In 1891 Charles J. Bertschy of Milwaukee bought an interest in the company. With Charles Bertschy as President, Fred Bertschy as Secretary and Treasurer, and Begin as Superintendent, the business was renamed the Bertschy Brick & Tile Company. Three years later Charles Bertschy sold his interest to Adolph L. Kern, also of Milwaukee, who then became President. Because of some accidental setbacks and a declining supply of good clay, in 1906 Fred Bertschy opened a mercantile business in Spring Lake and Shoemaker returned to his bookkeeping job at Johnston Brothers. In 1897 the officers were A. L. Kern of J. B. A. Kern & Sons of Milwaukee, President; Fred Bertschy, Secretary and Treasurer; and Charles Begin, Manager.

**1891 GRAND HAVEN MFG. CO. [1891- ?]**

Located at 255 North Third St. [corner of Third and Elliott], Grand Haven Manufacturing started business in 1891 and superseded the Grand Haven Wagon Works. Gustave Hubert was Manager and August Hubert was Treasurer. The firm made folding self-acting swings, universal foot power machines, and iron monuments, and did blacksmithing and wagon work. Gustave died in 1911, and the business was not listed in the *1908 City Directory*.

**1891 GLOBE MATCH CO./GRAND HAVEN MATCH CO. [1891-1897]**

The friction match was invented in the 1820s. The Grand Haven Match Company had been a successful business in the 1880s under the management of Frederick F. Sommers, but the “match trust” [presumably led by the Diamond Match Company] absorbed it. The Globe Match Company was organized in 1891 with a capital stock of \$25,000; this was essentially a home industry, independent of the match trust. Officers and Directors were H. W. Boswell, President; Sherman H. Boyce, Vice President; and George D. Turner, Secretary-Treasurer; Byron Parks, Bookkeeper; and John A. Pfaff. The company had the best and most recent matchmaking machinery, some parts of which were inventions of one of the stockholders, and the patents on them were the property of the corporation. Pine lumber was used for making parlor, sulfur, and safety matches. They employed 150 to 200 workers and could turn out 400 cases of matches daily. The plant covered one acre of ground and included six new brick buildings at the site of the Grand Haven Basket factory at Monroe between Sixth and Seventh Streets. In the early 1890s, at least, the company continued to advertise as the Grand Haven Match Company.

**1891 WOMAN’S CLUB OF GRAND HAVEN [1891-present]**

The Woman’s Club met in the parlor of the Unitarian Church at 318 Washington from the time of its inception on November 7, 1891 until the house was razed in the mid-1960s. Ruth Parish [Parrish], wife of Thomas Parish, who was then Postmaster in Grand Haven, was the Club’s first President and active in its organization. The group originally was called the Ladies Historical Society. Mrs John N. Reynolds [Florence] was elected Secretary, followed the next week by Louise Beaudry. Mrs Enoch Cummings [Juliette] was another organizer. In addition to these people, other early members were Mrs Sherman H. Boyce [Mary], Mrs Adam Kedzie [Henrietta G.], Mrs Hunter Savidge [Sarah], Mrs Willard C. Sheldon [Mary], Mrs George A. Farr [Susan], and Mrs Charles E. Soule [Lucinda]. A total of 97 women formed the initial membership. The purpose of the Club was to “promote civic welfare, intellectual development, and social life.” A second building erected at the same address was given to the Woman’s Club by the Unitarian Church in 1924. One of the Club’s early undertakings was improvement of Central Park. In 1907 the Club donated \$10 toward a new town clock to be placed in the steeple of the First Reformed Church, which was being rebuilt after a fire destroyed the earlier edifice. The members requested that the City of Grand Haven erect a bandstand, which later was carried out. During the 1940s and 1950s the Women’s Club was host to Summer Stock Theater, forerunner of the Central Park Players. The building was razed to make room for the post office in 1966. When the Community Center was built on Columbus in 1967, the Club contributed \$25,000 toward its construction.

**1891 SALVATION ARMY [1891-present]**

In 1891 two women of Irish descent provided services in behalf of the Salvation Army to local residents. Its first office was in the Armory [17 South Second] and its first formally appointed officers were Captain Cartwell and Lieutenant Jennie Wren. The Army obtained its first permanent office in July 1922, when Captain and Mrs Charles Glassbrook were in charge. The Glassbrooks were the first directors assigned to Grand Haven. Local resident Margaret Denny died in 1925 and bequeathed more than \$9,700 to the Salvation Army. Part of the bequest was used to purchase the property at 16 Washington [Grey Block]. Services were held in the auditorium of the old Orpheum Theater, and offices were on the third floor, which later was



converted to a gymnasium. In 1934-35 the second floor was made into living quarters. The organization moved to new quarters at 310 North De Spelder in 1975.

#### **1891 GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER [1891-present]**

Discussion of bringing electricity to Grand Haven began around 1890, and within a year the City Council had granted Mr. S. A. Baird a franchise. On June 2, 1891 the Council approved transfer of the franchise to the Connecticut Electric Light and Construction Company. Plans included installation of an electric railway between Grand Haven and Muskegon. Connecticut Electric constructed a two-story brick building at the southwest corner of Clinton and Harbor Streets, on the banks of the Grand River. The building was completed in the fall of 1891, and a Corliss engine installed. Johnston Brothers of Ferrysburg built a large tank to hold the oil used that fueled the engine. Two generators were used, and on November 21 electric lights were turned on for the first time, including 2.5 miles of streetlights. The plant furnished electricity for 55 lamps, each with 1000 candlepower. The Cutler House converted to electricity nine days later and Challenge Corn Planter & Refrigerator Company the next month. The business was called Grand Haven Light & Power Company with Andrew Jackson Emlaw and George W. Miller as local principal investors. In December 1891 the company began providing water for local consumption, using Worthington pumps powered by electricity. The electric railway became a reality in 1895 but provided only local service. In 1896 the City of Grand Haven bought out Grand Haven Light & Power and took over the task of generating electric power to local businesses, residents, and churches.

On September 29, 1896 Grand Haven residents voted to approve a \$10,000 bond issue to buy one steam-powered electric generator. It was used in evenings only to provide electric power for the city's new streetlights and replaced power that previously had been provided by Emlaw and Miller. In 1915 the original steam engine was replaced by a 500-kilowatt turbine engine. Despite overtures from Consumers Power to provide electricity, a diesel facility next to the steam plant on Harbor Drive was begun in 1929 and completed the next year. About the same time, in April 1930, voters voted to retain municipal ownership and to form a Board of Public Works, later renamed the Board of Light and Power. The new plant included two 1,150 horsepower six-cylinder engines at a cost of \$217,000. Four years later, in 1934, a third diesel was installed and three years after that, a six-cylinder Nordberg Diesel Engine, capable of producing 2,250 horsepower. In 1941 a 3,850 horsepower Nordberg Engine was added and a sixth was put in six years later. Nordberg was a Milwaukee manufacturer. In 1950 the addition of a nine-cylinder diesel engine made the Harbor Drive facility the largest municipal diesel plant in the country. In 1961 construction was completed on the coal-burning units named Sims Units I and II on Harbor Island at a cost of \$5 million, allowing the Harbor Drive diesel facility to be used for backup. The steam-powered plant was razed and converted to parking space. Sims III, a \$90 million complex completed in the early 1980s, replaced Sims I and II. The new unit contained \$27 million worth of pollution control equipment and was the first utility in the nation to create and sell synthetic gypsum, a byproduct of the process that removed sulfur dioxide from combustion gasses. The gypsum was shipped to a company that used it for the production of wallboard. By 1998 the Board boasted 57 employees providing electric service to nearly 12,000 consumers. In February 2020 the plant closed permanently. It was razed in February the next year.

#### **1892 AMERICAN MIRROR & GLASS BEVELING CO. [1892-1896]**

Established in October 1892 by Rufus K. Stallings, later Mayor of Grand Haven, and incorporated with a capital of \$50,000, the American Mirror & Glass Beveling plant was constructed near the intersection of Howard Street and Harbor Drive [Block 10 of Campau's Addition], approximately 500 South Harbor. It was a brick structure that measured 100 by 150 feet. Stallings had been Secretary of the American Mirror Co. in Louisville, Kentucky. With

Stallings as President of the Grand Haven plant and James W. Orr as Secretary, American Mirror became one of the largest businesses of its kind in the country. It claimed to carry the "Best Imported Silvering Quality Plate Glass." In 1896 the plant was destroyed by strong winds, forcing the business to close. The Plate Glass Company and Atlas works of Amsterdam [The Netherlands], may have had a warehouse at this site for a few years, but the 1912 Plat Map continued to show American Mirror at this spot.] The diesel plant of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was built on the site in the 1930s.

**1892 OTTAWA COUNTY ABSTRACT OFFICE/TURNER ABSTRACT OFFICE/MICHIGAN TITLE CO. [1892-1969]**

As early as 1892, George owned the Ottawa County Abstract Office, later known as Turner Abstract Office, with an office in the Ottawa County Court House. An advertisement in the 1892 *Historical and Business Compendium* claimed that Turner's office owned the "only set of abstract books in the county." In 1923 he sold the real estate title business to George Olsen and Orrie Sluiter. They sold the business to Michigan Title Company two years later. By 1969 the company was known as Transamerica Title Insurance Company, part of a nation-wide chain. The local office before and after the change in ownership was located at 213 Washington Street. Today it is known as Transnation Title Insurance Company.

**1893 I. N. TUBBS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO [1893-?]**

Thirty-seven-year-old Isaac Tubbs opened a photography studio at 217 Washington in Grand Haven in 1893. His wife, Ella, who also was a photographer, assisted him.

**1894 BROWN & TENNY PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO [1894-?]**

Fred D. Brown and Warren L. Tenny [Tenney] opened a photography studio in 1894 and were considered the "leading photographers of the city" of Grand Haven by 1896. In addition to studio photography, the two men specialized in furnishing amateurs with supplies and developing and finishing their work.

**1894 GRAND HAVEN NEWS [1894-1895]**

Established by Charles L. Brecken [Breckon] in November 1894, the *Grand Haven News* appeared weekly until the following July when the *Daily News* was formed. Both editions were "Republican in politics." Breckon had been with the *Chicago Herald* for twelve years previous to coming to Grand Haven. His wife assisted him in the newspaper business. The publication lasted about one year.

**1895 AMERICAN BRASS NOVELTY/MICHIGAN BRASS CO. [1895-1969]**

Charles H. Adams and his associates invested \$15,000 in 1895 to organize the American Brass Novelty Company. The business first occupied a three-story frame building on the west side of Second Street between Washington and Franklin, where the Forrest Brothers Grist Mill had been located, just north of the Armory and later the site of the Kroger Grocery Store. In 1902 the company moved to a new site at 500 South Harbor Drive [Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 9, Campau's Addition], next to American Mirror and Glass Beveling Company. Andrew W. Thomson, a son of one of the original stockholders, was Secretary of the firm at that time. The company produced pneumatic time stamps, furniture casters, sheet and cast brass, sheet steel, tin and wire goods, and small novelty goods, such as Adams' patented portable car window dust deflector, Queen alarm tea kettle, Acme cross-cut saw handle, Adams' patented Christmas tree and campaign candle holder, "No Burn" bread toaster, Royal tree guard, and window shelf brackets. Original officers were Samuel Ardis, President; Rev. James A. Kennedy, Vice President; Andrew Thomson, Treasurer; Charles Adams, Secretary; and James Hallas, Superintendent. Rev. Kennedy was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. In 1902 the Board of Trade offered a bonus

settlement to keep the plant in Grand Haven. The owners reorganized and constructed a new building on 500 Water Street [Harbor Drive] for the production of refrigerator locks, brass bed trimmings, and automotive locks and hinges. It merged with Kuhnle-Winslow Mfg. Company in 1931 and began the manufacture of plumbers' brass goods. As products changed, the old novelty lines were dropped and in March 1950 the name Michigan Brass Company was adopted. By 1965 Michigan Brass Company was one of the largest producers of basket sink strainers in the country, plus faucets, traps, strainers, and various other items used by the plumbing trade. The company also specialized in bent tubing for other manufacturers and performed production job plating. On August 1, 1959, Michigan Brass became a subsidiary of Applied Arts Corp. of Grand Rapids, which later became A.G.M. Industries, Inc. In February 1969 A.G.M. Industries announced plans to cease its operations in Grand Haven. The company President, John Pimm, who had taken over operations two years earlier, pointed out that the local plant no longer could operate in its present form and the phase out would be part of a general revision of operations. Fifty persons were employed at Michigan Brass, and some had been on the payroll there for their entire working lives. The building was razed to make room for the Sandpiper Condominiums.

**1895 STERLING FURNITURE CO./BLISS FURNITURE CO. [1895-1900]**

The Grand Haven Furniture Company was purchased in 1895 by Isaac De Kubber [1849-1916], James Tillotson of Grand Rapids, and E. Stanton Bliss of Saginaw and renamed the Sterling Furniture Company. The company employed 70 to 100 men and manufactured a line of medium-priced sideboards, fancy cabinets, odd dressers, buffets, and other furniture. It was located at the foot of Sixth Street, north of Monroe. Officers were Isaac De Kubber, President; Abraham De Kubber [1856-1923], Vice President; and E. Stanton Bliss, Secretary and Treasurer. Isaac De Kubber was for eleven years Superintendent of Widdicomb Furniture Company of Grand Rapids and the other De Kubber was Superintendent of Widdicomb Mantel co and later the Michigan Valley Furniture Company. Bliss was for several years with his uncle A. T. Bliss of Saginaw and later with the Widdicomb Furniture Company. By 1900 the name of the business appears to have been changed to Bliss Furniture.

**1895 GRAND HAVEN STREET RAILWAY CO. [1895-1902]**

On April 30, 1895 Stephen L. Munroe, George W. Jenner, Sherman H. Boyce, Andrew J. Emlaw, and George B. Parks organized the Grand Haven Street Railway Company with capital of \$25,000. It was organized for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating a street railway in Grand Haven. The original route started at the corner of Franklin and Second Streets, continued to Washington Street, then to Water Street [Harbor Drive], on to Highland Park, and ended with a loop at Indian Village, the group of cottages just south of Stickney Ridge. [Several of those cottages toppled into the lake during high water periods over the years.] There were several stops along the way. The line accepted passengers for the first time in June 1895. The ride to the beach cost 5 cents, and the open cars made stops at each block in downtown Grand Haven; stopped again at Monroe Station [Monroe Pavilion], below the former lighthouse atop the dune; chugged up to the small Jenner Station, located opposite the later Oval Inn [Blue Water Inn]; and finally ended at Bil-Mar before continuing on to Indian Village. For many years it was thought that the steam-powered engines were called "dummy" engines because they didn't generate their own power but picked up "charges" of steam at two points along the route. However, research done by Paul Trap in 2011 showed that the engines were called dummies because they were manufactured to look like passenger cars, and they were quiet. An 1898 Grand Haven ordinance stated, "The cars [of the street railway] used on such a railway shall be drawn or propelled by steam, compressed air, electric motors, or some other practical device, used and approved as a motive power in street railway service . . . that if steam motors are used upon such railway they shall be in form and construction as show in H. K. Porter's catalogue." The catalog referred to contains a picture that matches the cars of the Street Railway. The caption under the picture read,

“Class 2-B-R-M, Back Truck Four-Driver Noiseless Steam Street Motor, with Rear-Tank.” A picture in the catalog referred to matches exactly the cars of the Street Railway. In Highland Park residents referred to the line as the “Dinky,” a reflection of the small size of the cars. The Street Railway Company built a dance hall on the beach, near the foot of Lighthouse Bluff. Later the building was moved to the foot of the bluff below the Highland Park Hotel, where it became Hyland Gardens.

In 1902 the Grand Haven Street Railway Company was bought by the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, & Muskegon Railway Company, which had been incorporated three years earlier, and the line was converted to electric power, using a third rail for most of the route between Grand Rapids and Spring Lake before changing to overhead lines. The terminal was on Water Street [Harbor Drive], behind a building constructed much later that housed a gas station, then a series of restaurants, and finally a condominium complex called the Zephyr.

**1895 GEORGE W. CHRISTMAN LUMBER CO./CHRISTMAN LUMBER CO. [1895-1968]**

Christman Lumber Company, started by George Christman in 1895, opened at 721 West Savidge during the 1920s and stayed in business until the building was destroyed by a windstorm on June 29, 1968. The building originally had been the site of the Cutler & Savidge planing mill. Christman had worked for that company until its operations were moved to Canada in 1895. Christman erected a new office building in the mid-1930s to replace a structure from the 1860s that had served as an office for Hunter Savidge and was moved to the Christman site. Christman’s son, George E., took over when the founder retired in the mid-1920s, and his grandson later assumed management, making three generations of Christmans to manage the business before the buildings were destroyed by the windstorm. See also Industrial Lumber & Packaging [1967].

**1896 OTTAWA COUNTY FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION [1896-?]**

On February 1, 1896, 45 fruit and vegetable growers in this area organized the Ottawa County Fruit & Vegetable Association to promote and perfect methods of growing and shipping fruits and vegetables, especially celery, and to open up new markets for these products. James Hancock was elected President and Charles L. Brecken [Breckon] Secretary. Other organizers were Martin Walsh, Martin Kieft, Judson Harris, Peter Northouse, John M. Cornelius, and George W. Miller.

**1896 RUBY MATCH CO. [1896-1897]**

On December 1, 1896 the Ruby Match Company was organized with a capital of \$25,000. It was located in a building erected for the purpose of manufacturing matches on the south side of Madison between Sixth and Seventh Streets, later the location of the Grand Haven Basket Company. Officers were Edward H. Reed, President; George W. A. Smith, Vice President and Manager; and James A. Reed, Secretary and Treasurer. Work was begun on February 1, 1897, with thirty employees. Within a short time, this number was increased to 60. By the use of very ingenious machinery the employees were able to turn out 125 cases per day, selling at wholesale for \$1.23 to \$1.35 per case.

The match was 2.25” long and of two sorts: the original “sulfur match” and the “parlor match.” The friction end of each sort was done in ruby, blue, and brown colors. They were fully equal to the best matches in the market, both in strength of the stick and in the certainty of ignition. The pasteboard boxes in which the matches were packed for market were made in the same factory by the use of a very ingenious machine that a boy could work and which turned out these boxes complete and with surprising rapidity.

The timber used for these matches was Michigan white pine, and the chemicals used for “tipping” them came from Chicago and New York. Agnes Koster wrote in 1897: “The increasing product of this young and crescent manufactory finds a ready market in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota,

Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, being able to compete with older matchmakers that have long had possession of the market. A company so enterprising as this, that gives employment to so many of our people and that turns out so superior a match deserves well of our citizens and dealers. No other match should be found for sale in Grand Haven, Ottawa County, or in the State of Michigan.” The Diamond Match Company bought the Ruby Match Factory in 1897.

**1896 BAAR ABSTRACT CO./TURNER ABSTRACT CO./MICHIGAN TITLE CO./TRANSAMERICA TITLE CO./TRANSNATIONAL TITLE CO. [1896-present]**

Cornelius Van Loo, Register of Deeds, compiled real estate abstracts as early as 1872. From 1874 to 1882 abstracts carried the name of Edwin D. Blair, Searcher of Records. Jacob Baar evidently opened an abstract company bearing his name in a building at 214 Washington, which was destroyed in the fire of 1889, presumably with the loss of all his records. George D. Turner was an employee of this office. In 1896 Turner opened his own abstract office in the basement of the Court House. In 1919 the company’s name was changed to the Turner Abstract Company. Turner died on November 12, 1936. In 1923 George L. Olsen and Orrie Sluiter purchased the business from Marvin Turner, son of George Turner. They continued to work out of the Court House, but later moved the business to 226½ Washington Street, where one large room and one small room were used. Olsen was appointed Grand Haven’s Postmaster in 1924, and in 1926 he sold the business to the Michigan Title Company, a corporation operating out of Grand Rapids. Williamena C. Young, who had worked with George Turner for a number of years, became the manager of the Grand Haven office. She died on January 10, 1946, ten days after the Guaranty Bond and Mortgage Company of Grand Rapids bought Michigan Title. Martin Klein then became manager. In 1952 or slightly earlier, the office was moved to the second floor of 218 Washington Street, owned by the estate of Ella H. Lillie, whose husband and sons had practiced law in this building. In 1959 additional space was leased from the Reichardt Company at 220 Washington, and a doorway was cut through to connect the two buildings. On August 30, 1960 Klein was killed in an auto accident, and Ida Mae Schaafsma was appointed manager. She had worked for the company as early as 1945. Wolverine Insurance Company of Battle Creek purchased the Michigan Title Company, and then Transamerica Title Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation bought Wolverine, in September 1964. On September 24, 1965 the business offices in Grand Haven were moved once again, this time to 213 Washington. The name was changed officially to Transamerica Title Insurance Company on July 15, 1969, and later it became Transnational. The first title insurance policy was written on April 17, 1970, for James Van Zylen. From that point on, the company wrote all its own policies.

**1897 PLATE GLASS CO. & AMSTERDAM GLASS FACTORY [1897-1902]**

The Plate Glass Company and Atlas Works of Amsterdam [The Netherlands] opened a warehouse in Grand Haven in 1897. It employed a considerable number of local workers for a time. As a glass finishing plant it produced clear plates and mirrors for both French and German markets. The local customs office estimated it would receive \$100,000 annually from this company alone. The warehouse, on Harbor Avenue at the foot of Howard Street [approximately 500 South Harbor], was built in 1896. A. M. Mendelsohn [Mendelson], was General Agent for the company’s business in America. He worked out of offices in Grand Haven and Grand Rapids. However, since American Mirror & Glass Beveling Company in 1892 had built their factory on this site, and since that building was destroyed by winds in 1896, the Amsterdam Glass Factory may never have opened. American Mirror, founded in 1892, was noted in the atlases of 1897 and 1912 as the occupants of a building at the corner of Harbor Drive and Howard Street.

**1897 GRAND HAVEN BASKET FACTORY/HIGMAN PACKAGE COMPANY [1897-1928]**

The Grand Haven Basket Factory started business in 1897 in a large frame structure located along the entire south side of Madison Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets and included the

buildings of the former Ruby Match Company, which had just been bought by Diamond. The Interurban line ran a short spur on Madison, running in front of the Basket Factory, evidently to serve its employees. The Basket Company also owned land on Ver Berkmoes [Verberkamos] Island, approximately where Grand Isle Marina later was situated. Officers were James D. Edward, President and General Manager; John Lysaght, Vice President; and John M. Cooke [Cook], Secretary-Treasurer; and Robert M. Neale, Manager. The average annual output was 150,000 berry crates, 1,500,000 peach baskets, 200,000 celery crates, and 360,000 baskets for smoked fish. The company went out of business in 1925, when it was taken over by Higman Package Company, based in Benton Harbor. J. H. Stewart was President. In mid-1925 Stewart negotiated with Carlotta and Alvin Ewing for a lease extension on 99 acres of wooded land in Section 9 of Grand Haven Township, part of the area known as the "Wilderness." The timber on the land was used in the production of baskets and crates. Higman had been in business since at least 1921. The trustees of the Higman Company sold the last piece of property in 1928 to Paul Steketee & Sons of Muskegon.

**1897 GRAND HAVEN & SOUTHEASTERN RAILWAY CO. [1897-?]**

The Grand Haven and Southeastern Railway Company was incorporated on November 4, 1897 with capital of \$100,000. It proposed laying four miles of track, going from the City of Grand Haven to the north line of Grand Haven Township, but the project never got underway.

**1897 SPRING LAKE YACHT CLUB [1897-present]**

As early as the 1870s local residents enjoyed viewing regattas put on by the Grand Haven and Spring Lake Rowing Associations. The shores of Spring Lake were lined with spectators watching the four classes of entries compete: Double Sculls, Six Oared Shells, Barges, and Junior Single Shells. Among the entrants from time to time were the Chicago Scullers, the Chicago Athletic Club, the Grand River Boat Club of Lansing, the Detroit Boat Club, the Excelsior Boat Club of Detroit, the Farragut Boat Club of Chicago, the Pilot Rowing Club of Grand Haven, and the Spring Lake Boat Club. The only local winner in these regattas was H. W. Pearson [probably Harry Pearson, born in 1866] in the Pater shell Millie. Pearson, competing for the first time, won the Junior Single Sculls.

These activities set the stage for the Spring Lake Yacht Club. Formed in 1897 with William Savidge as the first Commodore and George P. Savidge as Secretary and Treasurer, the Club registered 47 boats the first year. The two Savidge brothers owned a 55-foot schooner, the *Sallie*, built by William Barrett, which was the Yacht Club's first flagship. Other charter members included William H. Loutit, Nathaniel Robbins, Chauncey M. Blakeslee, William Barrett, Len R. Patterson, James P. Armstead, George Wyman, James Campbell, and Lloyd Buckley. Barber School, which had been moved from the southwest corner of Park and Mason Streets in Spring Lake to the Savidge property, was used as the first club house. In 1908 motorboats were accepted as a legitimate part of the Club's activities.

The first Yacht Club race was won by Rev. David Spencer, sailing a boat owned by local contractor Chauncey Blakeslee. In 1905 club members acquired seven 28-foot Class B sloops, which represented the state of the art in racing at that time. The seven boats were precisely alike, putting the burden of winning on the crew's skill. The boats were rigged and fitted by William Barrett at a cost of \$500 each.

A Yacht Club booklet published in 1903 described Spring Lake this way: "Pure water. The Lake has an Outlet. Sewerage is forbidden. The ice taken from this lake has been tested by the Board of Health of Chicago and received its approval. The bottom of the lake is black, and therefore cannot be seen through the water, but clear water over a white sandy bottom, showing its full depth, may not always be pure, as appears from the fact that ice taken from some of the Wisconsin lakes has

been condemned by analysis. No sewage is allowed in Spring Lake, a statute law forbids it. The water is kept pure as its source by a daily discharge into Grand River. Deadly evaporation is not its only drainage, as in land-locked lakes with no outlet.”

The same booklet listed 27 entries for the 1903 regatta, including 13 from Spring Lake, two from Grand Haven, five from Grand Rapids, six from Chicago, and one from Saginaw. Names of some of the winners included *Emma Dean*, *Audacitor*, *Sphinx*, *Jukie*, *Canterbury*, *Araby*, *Problem*, *Lamba Sigma*, *Challenge*, and *Defiance*. The *Defiance* was the product of Barrett Boat Works of Spring Lake and rigged by George B. Carpenter Co. of Chicago. The *Defiance* was owned at that time by George P. Savidge and listed as a new entry the year before.

In 1931 the Club acquired use of the Thum property on the north side of Spring Lake [17500 West Spring Lake Road], somewhat east of Smith’s Bayou. Eventually a new clubhouse was built.

**1900 WESTERN TOOL CO. [1900-?]**

**1900 GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF TRADE/ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE [1900-present]**

Toward the end of the 1890s Grand Haven resident George McBride realized that the lumbering interests in the area were dying. He, Dudley O. Watson, and other community leaders used their own finances to make long trips to attract manufacturing concerns to the area and to inject new blood into the development of local industry. They called their organization the Grand Haven Board of Trade, and in 1900 local residents approved a bond issue of \$122,000 to be given as “bonuses” to companies agreeing to relocate to this area. The first company they attracted was the Story & Clark Piano Company, which soon employed over 600 men and became a pillar of industry in Grand Haven. Challenge Machinery Company and Fountain Specialty [Bastian Blessing] followed. Eagle Ottawa received \$4,000 from the fund when it purchased Grand Haven Leather. These new manufacturing facilities made Grand Haven once again a thriving, prosperous city. At various times the Board included James Armstead, William Connelly, George Farr, Herman F. Harbeck, Thomas Johnston, J. Edgar Lee, George McBride, John Pfaff, Nat Robbins, George W. A. Smith, William Thieleman, and Dudley O. Watson, all business and community leaders of their era. The Board also was referred to as the “Improvement Association.”

The Board was able to purchase large land parcels for industrial development. For instance, in 1906 the Board approved purchase of the Dykema property north of Fulton. This acreage became the site of the Eagle-Ottawa Leather Company, Keller Company, Bastian Blessing, and Grand Haven Stamped Products.

In 1916 the Board was renamed Northwest Ottawa County Chamber of Commerce. Many years later, in 1982, the Chamber merged with the Committee for Economic Development, which had been formed in 1944. The combined groups were called the Association of Commerce and Industry. At the end of September 2001 the name was changed to The Chamber—Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, and Spring Lake.

**1900 FRANKLIN PRESS/FRANKLIN COLOR GRAPHICS CO. [1900-1998]**

Started by Henry H. Arkema and his brother Gerrit in the early 1900s, Franklin Press operated first at 401 Fulton Street and sometime after 1910 moved to 517 Fulton. William M. Vaxter of Grand Haven purchased the business in 1933. Twelve years later Harold Essebagger bought it and kept it at 517 Fulton until 1960, when he moved to the industrial park at 1619 Marion. From 1968 to 1977 Harold Falenbrack owned Franklin Press. In 1978 Harold Essebagger’s son Jim bought back the business. Twenty years later Jim sold the business to a firm from Kalamazoo.

The Grand Haven office was closed, but the new owners continued to provide printing services to their local customers from their Kalamazoo site.

#### **1901 BRAAK'S BAKERY [1901-1997]**

Jacob Braak came to Grand Haven from his native country of Holland with just 12 cents in his pocket. By 1901, Braak's future as a baker was established, since he was working for the Holland, Michigan Honey Cake Company and also sold his own homemade cakes door to door. After two unsuccessful starts in Grand Haven, Braak in 1903 opened Spring Lake Bakery in the former blacksmith shop at 110 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake. At that time a quarter could buy three large loaves of bread, six small ones, or three pounds of cookies. Store taxes amounted to a little more than \$2 for the year. Within a short time, the business's name was changed to Braak's Bakery.

The endurance of the bakery illustrated the persistent commitment to quality that Jacob Braak and his family insisted on. He and his wife Jennie worked side by side in the early days, baking and selling, to create a strong foundation for their store. Their children helped out in the store as well and delivered baked goods in the Braak's delivery truck.

It was a difficult market to conquer, since most women did their own baking and didn't feel they should have to dole out extra money for products they could make at home. But business came steadily, and the bakery was here to stay.

Braak's for many years was synonymous with "Town Talk" cookies, large, sugary confections some people like to call "dunkin' cookies." Town Talks originated from Jacob Braak's experiments with a certain kind of vanilla. The cookies soon became a customer favorite, and Jacob made sure that his descendants would continue to use the same recipe, never substituting anything for that distinctive vanilla flavor. Braak did not reveal his secret recipe, and no one outside the business ever figured out how to make the cookies just right.

Expansion began in 1919, when a bakeshop was added to the store. A second floor section was built in 1921, and 1930 saw the addition of a cookie shop. Growth was not limited to the original store: over time, three branches were established in the Tri-Cities area, the first one in 1926, which in 1953 was moved to downtown Grand Haven, next to the Peoples Bank at the southeast corner of Washington and Third Streets. After Jacob Braak's death in 1949, his sons Reynard and Arnold ran the business. A coffee shop was added to the Spring Lake store in 1951. In 1990 Ron Braak, the son of a third brother, Albert, sold the bakery to Raymond and Emily Bielak. On March 9, 1997, the building was destroyed by fire. A new outlet was built on the same site in 1998 but did not immediately open. The name was changed to the Phoenix Delicafe, but it continued to offer bakery goods.

#### **1901 STORY & CLARK PIANO CO. [1901-1984]**

In the fall of 1900 the Story & Clark Piano Company of Chicago was secured by the Grand Haven Board of Trade as the first large industrial addition to the City of Grand Haven. Construction of the new factory started on December 5, 1900 and production began in 1901. The firm manufactured small console and spinet pianos as well as French provincials and grands. The finished plant occupied more than 168,000 square feet. In 1905 a three-story brick structure was built adjacent to the first building on the west side of North First Street between Washington and Columbus. Another building was added in 1923 along North First Street between Columbus and Fulton, and then the buildings in the first and second blocks of North First Street were connected by an enclosed walkway over Columbus Street, which remained visible into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Later additions in 1947, 1950, and 1953 gave Story & Clark a total of 162,036 sq. feet of space. The structures occupied lots 51, 52, and 77 through 88, which was the east half of the blocks bounded by Washington, Harbor, across Columbus to Fulton, and North First Streets.



Founded by Hampton Story in 1857 at Burlington, Vermont, the company moved to Chicago in 1867 in order to improve product distribution. In 1886 he merged with the Melville Clark [1851-1918] Piano Company, thus forming the Story & Clark Company. In 1900 Clark went off on his own, the same year that Hampton Story transferred manufacturing operations to Grand Haven. Story & Clark was a pioneer in many new designs and technical improvements. About the time of the move to Grand Haven, Hampton Story was bound for California after he divorced his wife and married his secretary. Before leaving, Hampton offered his piece of the company to sons Fuller and Edward, who immediately accepted. It was not until Hampton was a continent away that they found three month's worth of unpaid bills and just \$9.32 remaining in the firm's bank account. Hampton's two sons quickly overcame these setbacks and started operations in Grand Haven in 1901. The advantages of having a plant in Grand Haven were obvious: with two steamboat lines to Chicago and one to Milwaukee, and the two trunk lines, the Grand Trunk and the Pere Marquette, transportation of products and materials was much more convenient than from other locations.

What seemed like "everybody and his brother" rushed to fill the hundreds of jobs created in the Grand Haven area by the new factory. Almost everyone in town who didn't work for Story & Clark was related to someone who did. Many boys quit school in the seventh or eighth grade to work in the factory, which paid them 14 to 18 cents an hour for their labors.

The fine craftsmanship of the Story & Clark factory became legendary. They hand-tooled their own parts. They used only real ivory keys. And, to keep the instruments' glossy surfaces from becoming damaged, they held the finished pianos for more than three months before shipping to allow the varnish to set. Ironically this quality manufacturing led to decreased business, in a roundabout way. During World War II, the government required many piano factories to produce wooden glider parts. Story and Clark made spare caps and landing skids of a quality that far exceeded that of the parts made by other piano manufacturers. This meant that when most factories had resumed normal operations after the Allied victory in Europe, Story & Clark was still refused "declassification" for civilian production; their services were simply too valuable to discontinue. They quickly made up for lost time after V-J Day, stepping up production and adding 7,000 square feet of floor space in 1950. In 1961 the factory left the control of the Story family but was active under various owners until the company closed its doors in 1984. By this time, however, the instruments were no longer handcrafted but were instead produced by assembly line.

#### **1901 EAGLE OTTAWA LEATHER CO. [1901-2007]**

Started in Chicago in 1865 as the Eagle Tanning Works with a capital stock of \$100,000, this company in late 1900 and early 1901, assisted by a financial consideration of \$4,000 from the Grand Haven Board of Trade, purchased the physical assets of the Grand Haven Leather Company and also the Eagle Tanning plant in Whitehall. In 1910 Pfister & Vogel of Milwaukee purchased the business. Also in 1910 Arend J. Nyland II resigned from the tannery and William Hatton, who was appointed General Manager, began the production of upholstery leather. Pfister & Vogel changed the name of the firm to Ottawa Leather Company. In 1916 the Eagle and Ottawa companies were combined under the name of Eagle Ottawa Leather Company and established a cut sole plant in the former Van Motors building at 230 North Hopkins Street. This building was sold in 1919 to Grand Haven Brass Foundry following a disastrous fire, which destroyed the Foundry's original site. In 1926 Eagle Ottawa bought the Hayes Body Company plant at 1301 Fulton Street for use as a cut sole division. This building in 1944 was sold to the Camfield Company, and the Whitehall plant was sold in 1943 to the General Shoe Company. In 1927 the company had 500 employees. Its leather upholstery could be found in President Coolidge's Cadillac and Charles Lindbergh's Franklin.

In November 1942 Hatton Leather, a local company started by Julian B. Hatton I and Edmund K. Ellis, bought out the Eagle Ottawa Leather Company and combined operations but continued the

company name. Thus the company was under the management of the same family for three generations: William Hatton, Julian Hatton I and Julian Hatton II. The elder Julian died on August 5, 1952. The young Julian, like his father, was a power in the American Leather Industry, a major Grand Haven industrialist and employer, and a force in the community. Top officials from Eagle Ottawa Leather Company and Blanchard Bros. & Lane, Inc. of New Jersey announced in April 1959 that the two firms had merged. No change was planned in the current operations at the local plant.

In 1961 Albert Trostel & Sons of Milwaukee, Wisconsin acquired Eagle Ottawa, and in 1969 Anders Segerdahl became president of the firm. Eagle Ottawa had become a worldwide leader in the manufacture of quality leather upholstery and the largest producer of automotive leather in the United States. In 1961 the facility had over 330,000 square feet of manufacturing and support space on 17 acres. Over a 10-year period, Eagle Ottawa had invested more than \$20 million in building improvements and equipment. The Grand Haven facility performed complete leather processing, from bovine hides through finished leather. In the last five years, production had increased 75 percent. Eagle Ottawa also operated Eagle Tanning Co. in Waterloo, Iowa, and Pierpoint & Bryant, Ltd., in Warrington, England. These plants processed hides only through the first two stages of production. The hides were then shipped to Grand Haven to complete the processing. Eagle Ottawa shipped finished leather hides for cutting into automotive car sets to Mastercraft Leather Manufacturing Company. Mastercraft, located in Rochester Hills, Michigan, was near the plants of Eagle Ottawa's main domestic customers. With up to 800 employees, Eagle Ottawa was Grand Haven's largest employer, and one of the largest in West Michigan. A long-standing company objective was to reduce the environmental impact of its operations. Eagle Ottawa was a world leader in developing new technology and processes that continually reduced manufacturing emissions into the water and air.

Eagle Ottawa was credited with implementing many innovations. For instance, in the 1980s, the company developed a recovery process that eliminated 90 percent of the chrome from the water. In 1986 Eagle-Ottawa invented and implemented a new process to chemically remove hair from the raw hides instead of dissolving the hair. The result was reduced solids in its wastewater, thereby reducing the load on the city's wastewater treatment plant. In the mid-1980s, Eagle Ottawa began work on developing a water-based finishing process to replace solvent-based finishing. The company became the first and only automotive leather tannery to completely use water-based technology to finish leathers that met stringent automotive specifications. Eagle Ottawa's total toxic air emissions decreased 30 percent while production increased 17 percent. By 1991, these emissions would be one-tenth of historic amounts. In 1988 Eagle Ottawa built an on-site wastewater pretreatment facility which helped improve the performance of the Grand Haven/Spring Lake Sewer Authority's waste water treatment plant. In February 1991, Eagle Ottawa announced a three-year project to return much of its biodegradable waste to farmland by using a proven composting mulch process. The company's domestic plants use hides from heavy native steers and heavy native heifers raised for the beef industry.

There were four basic stages of the leather-making process:

Stage one—Lime Split [Cleaning, Splitting].

Hides arrived at the Grand Haven facility for processing. A special soaking process removed the hair, then precision equipment split the hide into two layers. Only the top layer [top grain] was used for automotive leather. The bottom layer was sent to other companies to produce rawhide dog bones, among other products.

Stage Two—Wet Blue [Strength, Durability].

Hides were tumbled in large, teakwood drums. This tanning process preserved the hide and added strength. The leather was then dewatered and shaved to a uniform thickness.

Stage Three—Crust [Colors, Oil, Drying].

The hides were tanned again in smaller drums where dyes and oils were added to provide the necessary color as well as the softness and durability required of fine leather. Hides were clipped to individual frames and dried to an exact uniform moisture content.

Stage Four—Conditioning and Finishing [softening, color application, texture].

Hides were mechanically softened. Final colors were sprayed onto the leather to meet automakers' requirements, and an embossing process provided the desired texture. The leather was also softened once more before the final quality control point where its specifications were measured by a variety of rigorous physical tests.

The entire process—from the arrival of brine hides through finishing—took about 13 days, a 41 percent reduction from earlier years. The business, located at 200 North Beechtree, closed permanently in 2007.

**1901 WALDEN SHOE CO. [1901-1905]**

Started February 2, 1901, Walden Shoe was brought to Grand Haven by the Board of Trade and closed in 1905 due to its inability to get coal. The plant was located in the building later occupied by Sam Garvin at 402 South Harbor Drive.

**1902 BURNHAM [BERMAN] GLOVE CO. [1902-1906]**

Founded by Sanford Burnham in September 1902, the Burnham Glove Company erected a building on the northeast corner of Fulton and Hopkins Streets [1401 Fulton]. At that time the factory covered 25,000 sq. ft. Burnham went out of business in 1906, and the William Heap Company occupied the space the same year, although it didn't begin operations until early 1907.

**1902 GRAND RAPIDS, GRAND HAVEN & MUSKEGON RAILWAY CO. [1902-1928]**

In late 1902 the Grand Haven Street Railway Company was bought out by the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, & Muskegon Railway Company, which had been incorporated on March 6, 1899 as Westinghouse, Church, Kerr, & Company of New York. The purchase price of \$18,000 included the business, equipment, rolling stock, and real estate. The company owned about 44 miles of track. The first Interurban run was made between Grand Rapids and Muskegon on February 8, 1902 and to Grand Haven on June 18 the next year. On July 13, 1903, the Grand Haven trolley line was connected with the Interurban so that passengers could ride from Grand Rapids to either Fruitport and Muskegon, or transfer at a junction near Fruitport and continue on to Spring Lake, Grand Haven, and the waterfront. In the country, the interurban engines were powered by a third rail, operating at 600 volts, but in Spring Lake overhead lines were used. The track crossed the Grand River at the bridge connecting with the Sawdust Road, down Third Street, and onto Washington and out to the lake.

The Grand Haven Interurban terminal was located at 22 Harbor Drive, behind what was then the Gildner Hotel, later Kirby's Grill, and the Spring Lake terminal was built on the northeast corner of Savidge and Jackson Streets [123 West Savidge]. With the advent of better roads and highways and the popularity of "motor busses," the line to Grand Haven was discontinued in October 1926, and the business was officially closed on April 18, 1928. One of the bus companies, Shore Line Motor, began service to Chicago from Grand Haven in December 1926. The roundtrip fare was \$7.00. However, for awhile the company added bus routes of its own between Grand Haven and Muskegon and continued to operate the Interurban electric cars at peak periods.

**1902 GRAND HAVEN STATE BANK [1902-present]**

The Grand Haven State Bank constructed a small building at 218 Washington in 1901, and it opened for business in January 1902. On February 19, 1910 it merged with the National Bank of Grand Haven, founded in 1891. The National Bank was the successor to Ferry & Son, established around 1855 as the area's first bank, and located on Water Street [Harbor Drive]. Joseph W. O'Brien, President of National Bank, was named to head the new organization, William Savidge and Elbert Lynn were Vice Presidents, and Bernath P. Sherwood of Allegan was Cashier. Directors were Gerrit J. Diekema, William H. Beach, Herman F. Harbeck, Koene T. Vanden Bosch, J. Veneklassen, Thomas Johnston, Nat Robbins, George A. Farr, M. C. Sherwood, John Pfaff, and Corenlus Ver Schure, in addition to the officers. The new bank moved across Washington Street to new facilities at 223 Washington on June 3, 1911. Much larger Doric columns at 223 Washington replicated the small pillars next to the doorway at 218 Washington. Bernath P. Sherwood I eventually became President of the Bank, a post he held for many years. Grand Haven State Bank went through a series of name changes to keep pace with the times: Security First Bank and Trust in 1963; Pacesetter in 1972; Pacesetter Bank in 1982; then Old Kent; and recently, Old Kent West. Following the move of the Post Office from the northwest corner of Washington and Third streets to its present location on the southwest corner of Washington and Fourth streets in 1966, Pacesetter bought the vacated property, razed the old Federal Building, and expanded the bank's facilities from the original location at 223 Washington all the way east to Third Street. In 1984 Old Kent Bank of Grand Rapids acquired Grand Haven Pacesetter Bank, and in March 2001 Old Kent West was bought out by Fifth Third Bank and later in September the same year began using that name.

#### **1902 STAG CLUB [1902-present]**

Considered the oldest continuing informal social organization in the area, the Stag Club was formed when about 20 young men met as a stag group at George Shoemaker's farm in Spring Lake in 1902. They had such a wonderful time together that they decided to form a club made up of 12 members. Shortly two more joined, and the original group of 14 consisted of Dr. Charles Cotton, Francis Dennis, Dr. Farber, Alex Hume, Jay Johnston, Thomas Kiel, Dr. John Mieras, Herman Nyland, Clifford Pfaff, Bernath Sherwood I, Lawrence van den Berg, Claude Vanderveen, Arie Van Tol, and Erving Waldron. At first meetings were held every other Wednesday from fall through spring. They met in a member's house, and the host's wife had the responsibility of preparing and serving the meal. New members were added only to replace someone because of resignation or death. Later members included Archie Campbell I, Paul A. Johnson I, Kingsbury Scott, Gust Thieleman, Dr. Arend Vyn, Al Jacobson I, Warren Stansberry I, Earl Babcock, Hartger Jonker, J. Wesley Lee, Dr. William Creason, Dr. David Seibold, Gerry Witherell, Buss Ringelberg, and many other prominent men.

#### **1903 CHALLENGE MACHINERY CO. [1903-2002]**

Secured by the Board of Trade, the Challenge Machinery Company broke ground on February 1, 1903 on a nine-acre site at 1433 Fulton for a new manufacturing business. Original officers of the reorganized firm were James L. Lee, Charles R. Shupe, Edgar Lee, and Fred Scholes. It started with about 30 employees and manufactured printers' equipment and precision parts along with a grey-iron foundry. The Challenge Machinery Company was recognized as one of the world's largest manufacturers of printing machinery and accessories, as well as the leading producer of precision surface equipment for the machine industry. The firm moved to this area from Chicago where it started operations in 1870 under the name of Shneidewend & Lee and survived the Great Chicago Fire the next year. It was reorganized as the Challenge Machinery Company in 1893. From the beginning, the chief products of Challenge were machinery and equipment for the printing industry. These included such items as paper drilling machines, proof presses, paper cutting machines, and the cylinder press. In 1907 management added an on-site foundry so that paper cutters could be made from start to finish at the same facility. The company introduced the

first paper drilling machines in 1930, replacing punches, and ten years later developed the industry's first hydraulic paper cutters. As business grew, Challenge bought part of the Story & Clark Piano Co. [19 North First Street] to house some of its offices. The space was sold to Harbor Industries in 1967. In 1979 the Fulton Street plant underwent the last of seven expansions, increasing the facility's size to 214,000 square feet. Eleven years after that it cut back to the one site on Fulton and returned to its original purpose of manufacturing products for the printing trade.

J. Wesley Lee, the founder's grandson, was head of the Challenge Machinery Company that had long been in his family and developed into international prominence. The Lees and their philanthropies greatly benefited the Tri-Cities area and gave life-long employment to hundreds in this area. In 1944 Lee's daughter, Alice Elaine, married Robert C. Gould. After the end of WWII, Robert joined Challenge Machinery. In 1951 Robert was made Director of the company, in 1958 he was named Vice President, and four years later, he became President of the firm, a position he retained until the early 1970s.

In 1970 the Challenge Machinery celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous operation. James Gould, a member of the company's founding family, was named president in April 1987, after the family regained control of the company. Gould resigned as chief executive in 1993. Larry Ritsema, vice president of the company, took over as acting CEO. In 2000, Ritsema, then president and chief financial officer, announced plans to sell the Fulton Street plant and search for a smaller site. In 2002 the company announced it had leased property in the Norton Center Industrial Park, where it eventually moved. [*Tribune* article "Challenge Changes direction," August 9, 2002.]

**1903 WESTERN PIANO SUPPLY CO. [1903-1910]**

Western Piano Supply Company started operations in July 1903 with John F. Corl, president and George A. Farr II, secretary-treasurer. It was located at 702 North Sixth Street in a building occupied in 1910 by the Van Motor Company.

**1903 JAMES W. OAKES AGENCY/OAKES, DORNBOS & CRIMMINS [1903-present]**

Founded in 1903 by James W. Oakes, the Oakes Agency was located in 1912 on the second floor of the Peoples' Bank building on the southeast corner of Washington and Third Streets, and then at 228 Washington. In 1908 James E. Scott was working with Oakes, and the business was known as Oakes & Scott Real Estate and Insurance. August Boseker was manager in 1912, a position taken over by Floyd Sherk around 1920. For a few years Oakes owned the local Studebaker automobile dealership, which Sherk bought in 1922. John Van Schelven joined the office in 1920 and stayed with it until his death in 1982. The founder's nephew, also named James Oakes, was associated with the business until his retirement in 1980. The business moved to 234 Washington in 1974, about a year after McLellan's Five & Ten Cent Store vacated the property. Oakes rented 4,500 square feet on the ground floor for a few years and then bought the building. In 1971 William Crimmins and Larry Dornbos merged their insurance business with Oakes, and the name was changed to Oakes, Dornbos, & Crimmins. In the next few years, the office bought several small insurance offices, including Rycenga, Vander Veen, and Dugan-Dornan. Dornbos and Crimmins left in 1983, and Elizabeth Voss, John Van Schelven, and Gerald Witherell formed a new partnership. At Van Schelven's suggestion, Gerry Witherell had become part of the Oakes Agency in 1958 at the age of 21, and in 1980 he was named President, a position he continued to hold in 2003.

**1903 E. G. CROSBY TRANSPORTATION CO. [1903-1933]**

Edward G. Crosby came to Muskegon about 1866 and developed an interest in ships. He obtained a tiny tug and picked up logs that had gone adrift until he was able to buy the steamer *Nyack*. He

then moved to Milwaukee, where he founded and managed Crosby Transportation Company. He maintained an office in Grand Haven. Among his other ships were the *E. G. Crosby*, *Conestoga*, *Nyack*, and *May Graham*. The Crosby line had operated ships on the Great Lakes for some years, but it was in 1903 that the company inaugurated railcar ferry service from Grand Haven to Chicago and Milwaukee. Crosby died on the *Titanic* in 1912, but the shipping business he founded continued until 1933. In 1925 the business name was changed to West Ports Steamship Company.

**1904 VAN ZYLEN LUMBER CO. [1904-1957]**

In 1904 Peter Van Zylén bought out William Thieleman I and went into the lumber business under the name of Van Zylén Lumber Company. The lumberyard was located on three acres between Adams Street and the South Channel, near the corner of Sixth Street [Lot 8, Boltwood's Addition, 701 North Sixth]. He also owned a yard on Davis Street. Van Zylén dealt in lumber, Pittsburgh paints and varnishes, sashes, doors, roofing, and coal. In the 1930s Van Zylén moved his business to 430-440 North Seventh, but kept the Sixth Street property, which was on a railroad spur, for receiving shipments. The lumber business closed when Van Zylén died in 1957.

**1904 KILBOURN & KILBOURN [1904-1910]**

Kilbourn & Kilbourn, incorporated in 1904, took over the business of Silas Kilbourn & Company. The firm had an extensive business in cooperage and lumber.

**1904 GLASER CRANDELL CO. [1904-1973]**

In 1904 a 64' by 124' building was erected in Spring Lake Village for the Glaser Crandell pickle factory. Water was pumped approximately 1,000 feet from Spring Lake to make brine for the vats, which had a total capacity of 20,000 bushels. With its main office in Chicago, the pickle station in Spring Lake cured about 60,000 barrels of pickles a year. The company owned approximately 600 acres, in Crockery, Fruitport, and Robinson Townships and had other farms in the area. Its slogan was, "Pickles, Preserves, Mustard Sauces." The company left the area in 1972 or 1973.

**1904 FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES [1904-present]**

The Fraternal Order of Eagles was organized in Grand Haven on December 14, 1904, with Ed Pennoyer as Worthy President; John Bryce, Vice President; Emil H. Hansen, Chaplain; Charles W. Cotton, Secretary; Jack M. Kaden, Treasurer; Louis Fishback, Conductor; Charles Van Norman, Inside Guard; Fred Cooper, Outside Guard; Duncan McAlpine, Aerie Physician; and Marinus Kamhout, Edward C. Smith, and Jens A. Olsen, Trustees. For many years the Eagles met on the second floor of the building at 212 Washington. In late 1949 the members made plans for a new building at 20 North Second Street, where Lambert Vyn's house had been located, and they moved in the next year. The Eagles' motto was, "People helping people."

**1904 OTTAWA ELECTRIC [1904-2015]**

After moving to Spring Lake from Chicago around 1901, Max Krueger worked as an electrical contractor. A native of Germany, he opened Ottawa Electric at 112 Washington around 1904. He repaired electric appliances and offered Hot Point electric stoves among other brands. Ottawa Electric was still housed at 112 Washington in the mid-1920s. The store then stocked Thor Electric Washing Machines, along with lighting fixtures and other electric appliances. Toward the end of the decade the company moved next door to 110 Washington. Krueger sold the business in 1935 to Emery Holzinger. When it relocated to 217 South Beechtree around 1967, Thomas Sargeant was the owner. He was followed by Russell Hilliard. In the early 1980s, the business was moved again, this time to 1051 Jackson Street, once home to Rycenga Lumber Company. Ottawa Electric closed permanently in 2015.

**1905 WILTSHIRE GLOVE CO. [1905-1907]**

In May 1905 Charles Wiltshire, President of the Grand Haven Glove Company, with his son George, founded an independent firm and named it Wiltshire Glove Company. Located on Second Street near the former Armory, it employed about 40 persons. Peerless Glove Company absorbed Wiltshire in 1907 but continued using the name Wiltshire. In the 1908 *Directory* Samuel Ardis is listed as President, Mark Ardis, Vice President, Perry Benjamin, Secretary, and Emil Hahn, Superintendent.

**1906 WILLIAM HEAP & SONS [1906-1932]**

William Heap & Sons, located in Muskegon, was secured by the Grand Haven Board of Trade in 1906, when it offered the firm an incentive of \$5,000 to help get it started. Heap began operations in February 1907 on the northwest corner of Fulton and Hopkins Streets [1401 Fulton], with William Heap as General Manager and his son Lionel as Business Manager. Another son, Cecil, also worked in the business, which was incorporated in 1928. The company manufactured plumbers' supplies made of wood or glass. [A glass toilet float was patented in 1907.] It ceased operations in 1932, and its business was taken over by American Seat & Tank Company. Part of the Heap plant was referred to as the Cookerette Factory, which operated from 1912 to 1915.

**1907 GRAND HAVEN BOAT CO. [1907-?]**

Owned by William Tuer and Emmit Wightman, the Grand Haven Boat Company operated from approximately 115 South Harbor [Lot 4], starting about 1907. Their business ad in the 1908 *City Directory* said they were "Manufacturers of Boats and Launches and dealers in Boat and Engine Supplies, Stationary, Boat Repairing and Boat Storage."

**1907 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH [1907-present]**

On Friday evening, May 17, 1907, eleven people gathered at a home in Robinson Township to form a church, which they named the Grand Haven Scandinavian Seventh-day Adventist. The original members were Jens Halvorsen, Local Elder; Markus Larson, Treasurer; Missionary Secretary; Amelia Halvorsen; Ingeborg Larson; Joseph Ryerson, Clerk; Bessie Ryerson; Ingeborg Myhre; Johanna Sather; George Sather; and Hartvig Halverson. The organizers spoke Norwegian, and for many years that was the language used in the services. Later a branch was started in the City of Grand Haven. Transportation difficulties led three female members of the church to hold meetings closer to home. By 1917 the name of the church was changed officially to the Grand Haven Seventh-day Adventist. Elders William Guthrie and F. A. Wright helped with the reorganization.

By this time church membership had increased to 28, but the congregation continued to meet in private homes. For a short time, a store building was rented, but in early 1921 the members rented the Unitarian Church at 318 Washington. Two years later Grant Hosford and George Wirsbinsky, two ministerial interns, pitched a tent on the corner of Washington and Ferry, near Jacob Cook's grocery store, and held the first recorded evangelistic meetings. Seventeen members were baptized as a result of this summertime undertaking, and Brother Wirsbinsky was named permanent Pastor of the church. In the spring of 1924 Sister Beryl Davison, a member of the church for ten years, was assigned to do Bible work in the area. A few months later a large increase in the rent at the Unitarian Church caused the congregation to once again meet elsewhere, including on occasion private homes, the Salvation Army Hall [16 Washington], and the basement of the Reformed Christian School, then located at 800 Columbus. The next January a committee was appointed to develop plans for a church building and to purchase a building site. Construction of a church at the southeast corner of Grant and De Spelder Streets [1002 Grant] started that spring, and as soon as the basement was finished, the congregation began holding

services there. The sanctuary upstairs was completed in the fall, just in time for the church to host a "Union Meeting" of congregations from other nearby churches.

When Brother Wirsbinsky died in February 1926, the church went for awhile without a pastor and was absorbed by the Muskegon District. Sister Davison remained in Grand Haven until the summer of 1928 and did much of the pastoral work. The church did not have a permanent pastor again until 1956, when Ray Hamstra arrived. The church was free of debt by the late 1920s, and for awhile rented space to the First Protestant Reformed Church for Sunday services.

By 1954 it was clear that the space at this small building was inadequate to meet the needs of a growing congregation. Plans for a new building were abandoned when the Second Reformed Church at the southeast corner of Washington and Sixth Streets became available. Services were held for the first time in the new church on February 5, 1955, although the congregation of the Second Reformed continued to use the sanctuary for services for a year and half while their new building was under construction. The previous church of the Seventh-day Adventists was sold to the Free Methodists. In 1971 the church was extensively remodeled, including improvements to the basement and sanctuary, including a new rostrum, baptistery, carpeting, and pews.

Also in 1955 the church began building a church school building on land on M-104 donated by William Garrow and his wife, both church members. For six years grades one through eight were taught in the room available at that time. In 1963 and 1964 it was enlarged to two rooms and grades nine and ten were added. Prior to the school building, members had bused their children to the F. A. Stahl School in Muskegon.

In July 1970 the Seventh-day Adventist Community Center at 1119 Washington was opened, thanks to the financial support of area merchants, industries, and foundations. It continued and expanded social services done at the church. Gladys Barnett, wife of Delmar Barnett, was the director. The Center was valued at \$60,000 when it opened. Half the building was rented out, but when that space became available the church used it for smoking cessation clinics, cooking schools, and other community activities. The Center later was relocated to 432 Beechtree.

**1907 VAN LOPIK & CO./VAN TOL & EKKENS/EKKENS GROCERY STORE [1907-1953]**

A grocery store, started by Peter and Anthony [Anton] Van Lopik in 1881 in downtown Grand Haven, at the northwest corner of Washington and Second, was located at 206 Washington Street from 1885 to 1895, when it moved to 209 Washington. The grocery continued under the name Van Tol & Ekkens between 1907 and 1913, when Van Tol left the grocery business to establish a clothing store at 106 Washington. From 1914 until 1953, when he retired, Gerrit Ekkens, famous as Grand Haven's cheese man, was sole owner of the grocery store. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has a replica of the Ekkens store on permanent exhibit.

**1907 ZOERNER'S FOUNDRY [1907-1919]**

William Zoerner started Grand Haven Brass Foundry in a barn at 507 Monroe near Sixth Street. The company was taken over on February 20, 1919 by Alvin E. Jacobson I and Paul Johnson I and continued with the same name.

**1907 MILLIMAN MFG CO. [1907-1916]**

Started in March 1907 as a manufacturer of doors, windows, frames, and other interior finishing, Milliman Manufacturing was incorporated at \$50,000 with Herbert G. Milliman, President; J. A. Boand, Vice President; Charles T. Rust, Secretary-Manager; Fred M. Carter, Treasurer; and C. F. Wetlaufer, Manager. The firm was located on Water Street [Harbor Drive], near Howard.

**1907 OTTAWA ELECTRIC [1907-2105]**



Max C. Krueger, a native of Germany, founded Ottawa Electric at 112 Washington in 1907. He sold the business in 1935 to Emery Holzinger. Eventually, the business was moved to 1051 Jackson Street. Ottawa Electric closed permanently in 2015.

**1907 MAURER GLOVE CO. [1907-1917]**

Founded by Charles Maurer I in December 1907 with 20 employees making all-leather work gloves, the Maurer Glove Company was located at the corner of Fulton and Ferry Streets [1003 Fulton]. In 1914 the firm moved to a new building, constructed by the Village of Spring Lake on West Savidge. Maurer sold out to Carroll Daniels who ran the business for a while and then closed it in 1917 to start the Daniels Stationery Company in Muskegon. Maurer's son, Charles II, worked with him in the business.

**1907 WILLIAM F. BADING MFG CO. [1907-@1916]**

Started about January 1, 1907 on as a tool making and light-manufacturing establishment, the William F. Bading Manufacturing Company specialized in work on machinery and marine engines for boats stopping in the Tri-Cities area. Bading died in 1916.

**1907 PEERLESS GLOVE CO. [1907-1952]**

Organized in 1907 when it took over the Wiltshire Glove Company, the officers of Peerless Glove were owners Samuel B. Ardis, President, and Mark Ardis, Vice President. Additional officers were Andrew Thomson, Treasurer, and Perry H. Benjamin, Secretary. The glove plant was located in a wooden building on the west side of Second Street [13 South Second] near the former Armory. By 1907, it had opened a second factory in Coopersville. Samuel Ardis and his nephew Mark also owned and operated the American Brass Novelty Company. In 1911 Security Glove Company of Chicago merged with Peerless and Arthur W. Elliott arrived as plant superintendent. In 1913 Barton Elliott came from Chicago and bought out Perry Benjamin's share. Shortly afterward, the entire business was taken over by Arthur W. Elliott and Barton Elliott, along with a few other local people. Its heavy-duty glove sold for \$3.20 a dozen at that time. In 1922 Peerless erected a three-story building on the corner of Seventh and Elliott Streets [633 Elliott]. Five years later the owners purchased an additional 66 feet fronting Seventh Street for expansion purposes. By the 1940s Abraham Reenders and Arthur Elliott were co-owners. The Pioneer Rubber Company of Ohio bought the firm in 1945 and Ernest Davis Ginter took over as Manager. In 1949 Ginter purchased all outstanding capital stock. In 1952 he sold the firm back to Pioneer Rubber, which then closed the plant.

**1907 MICHIGAN MATERIALS/CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS CORP./CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATES CORP. [1907-1977]**

Four generations of one family from Chicago guided the destiny of Construction Aggregates Corporation after it was founded in 1907: Mandel Sensibar, founder; his son Jacob R. Sensibar, president from 1911 to 1964; another son, Ezra Sensibar who succeeded Jacob and became president and chairman; and finally, David Sensibar. In 1922 the company purchased from Ralph Van Tol and John Walsma a large amount of property eleven miles up the Grand River at Bass River, which contained vast deposits of aggregate. In 1923 the owners located their plant on sand-filled marshland along the Grand River in Ferrysburg. The company screened and graded gravel to more than 100 specifications and sold it to the road building and contracting industry.

In 1929 the firm began a half-million-dollar expansion to erect the first unit of a 900-foot storage tunnel to be built along the river frontage at the Ferrysburg property. The company provided much of the aggregate used to fill in the land along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicago, which became the bed for the Outer Drive, the Museum of Natural History [Field Museum], Shed Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Soldier Field, and Meig's Field. Gravel was brought on barges

down river from the Bass River quarry to the Ferrysburg screening plant, where graded materials were loaded on cargo ships such as *Baystate* and *Andaste* and shipped to Chicago. The name of the firm was changed to Construction Aggregates in 1948. Three years later a grease-fed fire gutted the main pump house and machine shop of the plant.

By 1965 Construction Aggregates was the largest Great Lakes shipper of sand and gravel and rumbled with activity from spring to late fall. William Dawes, plant manager of the plant at that time, said the firm had 92 employees. The processing operations ran three shifts daily, according to James E. Milas, general manager. The plant processed four basic types of materials: concrete gravel, concrete sand, foundry grave, and foundry sand.

In 1969 the company announced plans to build a \$2,000,000 Plant in Robinson Township to produce lightweight clay aggregate for blocks. It was said to be the largest and most modern plant of its type in the world. The *Grand Haven Tribune* in 1975 reported that the firm had actually added some 30 square miles to the land area of the United States through its land reclamation program.

In 1915 the Sensibar method of hydraulic sand fill was developed for filling the offshore site of the Field Museum in Chicago around pile-support piers of concrete and timber. In 1923 the company designed and constructed the first bulk cargo ship, the *Constitution*, which was a self-unloader. Six years later the firm built the first digging bucket barge unloader for use at the Ferrysburg plant and designed and built the first A-frame supported belt conveyor boom to rotate 210 degrees on the freighter *J.G. Sensibar*. In 1935 the company invented a method of underpinning a weakened pier structure by placing sand fill hydraulically for the U.S. Quartermaster base in Boston, and in 1946 invented a method for removing sand through the combined use of hydraulic monitors, slurry educators, and centrifugal pumps with positive density control. In 1948 the company made the first application of surcharge soil stabilization for New Jersey Route 100, now part of the turnpike. Two years after that Construction Aggregates developed a method of operation for a hydraulic dredge through sub-arctic winters, and in 1951 invented the Sensibar method of stripping ore bodies by combined use of hydraulic monitors, hydraulic dredges and tunnels for obtaining recharge water in Ontario, Canada.

In 1953 company engineers invented a method of constructing sand islands in deep water exposed to sea action by means of tiered rock containing dikes for Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Annapolis, Maryland, and in 1956 they developed a new method of pouring submerged bridge pier caps by the use of shore-built prefabricated forms sealed in final position on piles for the Tappan Zee Bridge of the New York Thruway. The next year they developed a system for moving 1,100-ton dredge bodily from one completed mine stripping project to another at Step Rock Iron Mines in Canada.

In 1962 the firm constructed impervious dikes upon rock salt foundation at the Dead Sea Works in Israel. In 1969 the company designed and constructed the world's first hydraulically loading and ocean-going hopper barge with 15,000 cubic yards capacity, more than double the capacity of any other hopper dredge and some 20 times the capacity of the U.S. Corps of Engineers dredge *Peter Conover Hains*. In 1974 they built the first hydraulic self-loader and unloading sea-going hopper dredge, the steamer *L. L. Barth*.

In 1976 the company announced it would be expanding business activities, but in fields other than shipping aggregates. That year the Grand River gravel hauling barges runs ended. The company intended to develop the marine dockage into a waterfront terminal that could include warehousing and the company might also lease buildings in an industrial park development. Construction Aggregates did not plan to sell any of the Ferrysburg plant property and might even expand if its future business plans materialized.

The firm closed its \$3.4 million Lakelite plant, sold the gravel pit acreage at Bass River in 1974, and looked for a buyer for its aggregate block plant. The State of Michigan was interested in the 1,100 acres at Bass River for a public park, a concept that eventually turned into a reality as the Bass River Recreation Area. In 1977 the company sold its gravel screening plant and marine dock area along the Grand River in Ferrysburg, just west of U.S. 31, to Verplank Coal & Dock and C-Way Construction. Verplank planned to use part of the site for storage while C-Way would move from its location in Ferrysburg to the new site. Around 1977 the large, original structure at the northwest corner of U.S. 31 and the Grand River was dismantled.

Construction Aggregates address in 1998 was listed as 18042 North Shore Drive, Ferrysburg. In March 2001 David Sensibar, owner of Cheyenne Corporation, which included Construction Aggregates, at that time referred to as CACM, sold the company to Fairmount Minerals of Chardon, Ohio. The sale allowed Fairmount to assume mining operations at the Sag off North Shore Drive in Ferrysburg and the Rosy Mound location on Lake Shore Drive. Sensibar retained 500 acres, including 75 acres in Ferrysburg and the remainder in Spring Lake Township, and 300 acres in Robinson Township, south of North Cedar Drive. Sensibar and his general manager, Howard Chapman, planned to develop the Ferrysburg/Spring Lake land into residential property. Chapman started with Construction Aggregates in 1959 and became general manager about 1991.

**1908 SPRING LAKE ICE & COAL CO./VERPLANK COAL & DOCK CO./VERPLANK TRUCKING CO. [1908-present]**

The area's first ice company was organized in Chicago, Illinois and purchased property on the north shore of Strawberry Point from Fred Bertschy and Aloys Bilz on December 19, 1898. The company built an icehouse 240' by 501' by 32' high. Much of the ice the following spring was exported to the Chicago market. The ice building burned down a year later and was not rebuilt. The Chicago-based company sold the property to William J. Carney in June 1900. In the early 1900s Tony Verplank was in the coal and ice business with John Brongersma. In 1908 Brongersma sold his interest to Verplank, who then started the Spring Lake Ice and Coal Company. He built an icehouse on the south side of Smith's Bayou in Spring Lake Township [16887 Lake Road]. That building came down in 1931 and was replaced by a larger one which had six rooms, each one 60' by 120' and 32' high and insulated with 12 inches of sawdust. In 1912 Verplank bought Frank Fox's ice business, located on Spring Lake at 213 Barber Street, making Spring Lake Ice and Coal the only ice company in the area. Verplank had added coal to his business line in 1910, although the name Spring Lake Ice and Coal Company was not adopted for another ten years or so. On January 31, 1928, the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported, "Ice cutting was begun on Spring Lake by the Ver Plank Ice Co. today and they report good clear ice 10 inches thick. Smith's Bayou . . . is the place Ver Plank's use for their ice as it is free from weeds or refuse which might cause dirty ice." The stored ice was covered with sawdust to delay the thawing process. About this time home delivery cost an average of \$3.45 a month per household. In 1930 Verplank bought an ice-making machine and had it installed at the Interurban warehouse at 104 North Jackson in Spring Lake. It could make 25 tons of ice in one day, and the next year it was expanded to 40-ton production. As the use of electric refrigerators expanded, business gradually dropped off, and in 1952 the company sold out to City Products of Grand Rapids. In 1930 Verplank started dealing in coal, beginning with 4,000 tons the first year and growing to more than 46,000 tons in 1950. By 1952 the company had added slag, limestone, shale, and salt, but in later years the company dealt primarily in aggregate. Verplank's sons, Vernon, Russell, and Sherman, joined the business in 1924. In 1977 Construction Aggregates sold its gravel screening plant and marine dock area along the Grand River in Ferrysburg, just west of U.S. 31, to Verplank Coal & Dock and C-Way Construction. Verplank planned to use part of the site for storage while C-Way would move from its location in Ferrysburg to the new site. The company, located at 705 Second Street in Ferrysburg, became known as Verplank Trucking.

**1908 FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST [1908-present]**

Mrs E. W. Andrews was credited with starting the Christian Science movement in Grand Haven. John Worsfold was the first reader, and Julia Soule later held that post. By 1908 a Christian Science Reading Room was located at the corner of Washington and Third Streets, probably on an upper floor of what is now called the Witherell Building. By the 1940s the church had its own building at 504 Clinton. The original building was expanded over the years.

**1908 REICHARDT STORES [1908-1997]**

At one time the Reichardt family had a cluster of shops located in the 200 block of Washington Street. The business began in 1908 when John H. Reichardt came from Illinois to found Reichardt Business Machine and Office Supply business, with a close connection to Daniels Office Supply in Muskegon. In 1914 John Reichardt married Erma Lynn, who started a gift shop the same year. A woman's dress shop, The Abigail, opened in 1926 at 218 Washington Street. The Abigail was named for Abigail Bos, a neighbor of the Reichardts and fashion editor for the *Grand Haven Tribune*. In the 1930s Reichardt purchased the Style Shop and its building at 204 Washington from John and Esther Grubbing. This shop carried medium-priced clothing. The Reichardts' son, Jack, joined the business following World War II, and he and his wife, Libby, continued the tradition of stocking the store with items purchased on shopping trips in Europe. Libby also had her own shop, named Ad Lib. The Abigail closed in the mid-1960s, and Ad Lib shut its doors in 1997.

In 1974 Jack and Libby's son John Field Reichardt entered the business, adding a wine and gourmet food department in the former men's shop, later expanding to an East Grand Rapids location, and then moving the Grand Haven shop closer to the waterfront until it closed in 1989. It was the last store bearing the Reichardt name. From then until the closing of Ad Lib, the business was owned and operated by Terry Hughes and Judy Postmus, who had owned the Gift Horse in Centertown Grand Haven. Hughes eventually bought out Postmus's share. Among Reichardt's employees were Grand Haven residents Sherman Wirick, Izetta Witherell, Dory Lloyd, and Geneva Morse. Wirick in 1970 bought Reichardt Office Supply and changed its name to Wirick Office Products. Witherell was buyer and manager of the Reichardt Gift Shop.

**1909 GETSMALL ROACH TRAP CO. [1909-?]**

Getsmall Roach Trap Company was organized in October 1909 with Paul Rissman, Manager, and Chauncey Clark, Secretary.

**1909 PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK/PEOPLES BANK/PEOPLES BANK & TRUST [1909-present]**

Jacob L. Dornbos, Cashier at the former National Bank of Grand Haven, and Frederick Forrest Peabody [1859-1927], founder of the Arrow shirt company and part-time resident of Spring Lake, saw the need for another bank in addition to Grand Haven State Bank. Peoples Savings Bank was organized in 1909, but didn't start banking until February 9, 1910, after purchase of the property at the southeast corner of Washington and Third Streets from the estate of lumber baron Dwight Cutler I. Dr. Edward Hofma was an original organizer and the institution's first President, and Thomas Hefferan, William Thieleman, and Derk Baker were its first Vice Presidents. Dornbos was named Cashier. Other Directors were Walter I. Lillie, Charles E. Soule, Gerrit L. Dornbos, John J. Bolt, George D. Turner, Jay F. Johnston, and Edward H. Story. John J. Bolt's son, Ted, became associated with the bank and eventually became its President. The bank started with assets of \$88,896.10, and after only four months it had deposits of \$136,000. Initially all records were maintained by hand posting, and there were only three employees when the bank started. Its first year's deposits amounted to \$260,000. By 1954 deposits totaled over \$8,000,000, and on June 30, 1987 the bank's semi-annual report showed assets of \$152,730,000. In 1954 there were twenty-three employees. In 1962 Peoples Bank and Spring Lake State Bank merged. In 1964 a

branch bank was opened on Robbins Road, and in 1968 another branch was opened on Fourth Street. On February 10, 1958 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that the State Banking Department had officially approved a name change from “The Peoples Bank of Grand Haven” to “The Peoples Bank and Trust Company.” The same newspaper on August 10, 1987 noted that the bank was being retitled once again, this time to a completely new name. “We will be changing our name to NBD Grand Haven,” advised bank President Fred Van Bemmelen. “That comes primarily from our affiliation with NBD Bankcorp and from the bank board of directors’ decision to widen the banks operating area.” The main building was completely remodeled and enlarged in 1980, the same year the Ferrysburg office was opened.

**1909 HOLTROP CONCRETE PRODUCTS [1909-present]**

Founded by John Holtrop I across from the Ferrysburg school in the site later occupied by Tri-Cities Wood Products on Fifth Street in Ferrysburg, the plant in 1909 had about 1200 sq. ft. of floor space and three persons were employed. After starting out in the production of concrete blocks and burial vaults, the business later developed many types of construction supplies including cinder and pumice blocks. In 1925, Abel Holtrop, John’s son, opened Holtrop’s Economy Market at 313 Pine Street in 1925. He sold the market to a Mr. Hesse and moved to Lake Odessa, where he operated a machine shop. In 1945 Holtrop returned to Ferrysburg and started manufacturing concrete block. Business grew and it soon became necessary to construct a new building, at 540 North Maple Street, which was completed in 1946. At the same time the business was incorporated with Abel Holtrop, President, and John Holtrop II. Holtrop secured a machine that was capable of producing 8,000 bricks in an eight-hour shift in a variety of colors, made out of concrete, cinder, waylite, or pumice.

**1910 FOUNTAIN SPECIALTY CO./BASTIAN-BLESSING CO. [1910-1988]**

In 1910 the Grand Haven Board of Trade induced Fountain Specialty Company to move from Indiana to Northwest Ottawa County. Fountain Specialty was started in Chicago by C. W. Cushman as a small concern. It specialized in producing soda fountain fixtures and accessories. Officers in Grand Haven in 1914 were H. H. Cushman, President; Joseph O’Brien, Vice President; Ralph E. Brandt, Secretary, and John S. Nash, Treasurer. Nash, originally of Chicago, in 1918 helped bring about a merger of Fountain Specialty with Bastian-Blessing of Chicago. Combining the companies resulted in 75,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space, making the new firm the world’s largest producer of soda fountains and food service equipment at that time. The Bastian-Blessing Company was started as the result of an unusual illness. While on a hunting trip in Wisconsin, Charles L. Bastian’s sight suddenly failed him as he was walking across a field. Within a short time, he was totally blind. Because of this handicap, the brass foundry at which he worked in Chicago terminated his services. Bastian was not a man to have idle time on his hands, and almost immediately he made plans to start his own business, persuading a co-worker, Lewis Greene Blessing, and several other young associates to join him. Together in 1908 Charles and Lewis formed the Bastian-Blessing Company in Chicago, and from the very start they were highly successful. The first products manufactured by the company were carbonators, high pressure gas regulators, and soda fountains. In 1933 Bastian-Blessing purchased the Knight Soda Fountain Company of Chicago. Local stores that used Bastian-Blessing products included Ray’s Drive in, Russ’s Restaurant, Steiner’s Drug Store [later Buffalo Bob’s], and Pfaff’s Pharmacy. Bastian obtained some 54 patents on inventions for his company after losing his sight. The factory was located on land bought by the Grand Haven Board of Trade at the southwest corner of Hopkins and Madison Streets [301 North Hopkins, also known as 1353 Madison]. Blessing, an expert in sales and finance, was Vice President by 1930 and eventually ran the company until his retirement in 1961. Bastian, who was born in Germany in November 1861, came to the United States in 1880. Blessing, a native of Illinois, was born on March 28, 1873 and died in Wilmette, Illinois in December 1964. There is no evidence either man ever resided in the Grand Haven area.

**1910 VAN MOTOR CAR CO. [1910-1912]**

Secured by the Board of Trade, Van Motor moved to Grand Haven from Chicago in August 1910, under the ownership of Herman Harbeck, Nat Robbins V, George McBride, and J. Edgar Lee. It was located at 702 North Sixth Street, in a building formerly occupied by Western Piano Supply Company and later by the Kiddie Kover Company. A 1911 advertisement priced a Van 22 at \$850, bearing the slogan, "One Best Bet." The "Van 22" car was considered an immediate hit throughout the country, but by May 1912 the firm had failed.

**1910 FISHER MACHINE SHOP [1910-?]**

**1910 BENEVOLENT, PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS [1910-present]**

Organized in 1910 as Lodge No. 1200, the Elks organization [BPOE] in its early years met in the upper floor of the Vander Veen Building at 136 Washington and then in the building at 100 Washington. In 1928 the members built "an elaborate temple" at 15 South Third in Grand Haven. The first Exalted Ruler was Joseph W. O'Brien; James P. Armstead, Leading Knight; Edward Seligman, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Herman Harbeck, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Charles W. Cotton, Secretary; Nat Robbins, Treasurer; and Gust Thieleman, Tiler.

**1911 OTTAWA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION [1911-present]**

The growing number of automobiles throughout the country in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century necessitated the improvement of roads. The Ottawa County Road Commission met for the first time on May 4, 1911 in the offices of Jacob Glerum, the County Clerk. The first members of the Commission were Richard Dykema, R. H. Cook, Charles E. Bosworth, and Millard Durham, who chaired the group. Their first order of business was to specify highway improvement projects, and their initial recommendations included these: Grand Haven to Holland Road [21¼ miles], which followed 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue as far as Winans, then east to 152<sup>nd</sup>, south to Fillmore, east to 144<sup>th</sup>, south to Butternut, and finally southeast to 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and into Holland; Peach Plains Road [22½ miles], following Waverly Road to 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township, east on Lincoln to 120<sup>th</sup>, then straight through Robinson and Olive Townships to Holland Township; Spring Lake to Coopersville Road [the Dixie Highway, 21 miles], more or less along the path of Cleveland Street; Crockery Road [6 miles]; Bridge Street Road [15 miles], the future route of Lake Michigan Drive connecting Grand Haven Township with Bridge Street in Grand Rapids; Muskegon Road, later Old U.S. 31, also known as Grand Haven Road, [2¼ miles], connecting Spring Lake Township with Muskegon Township; and Nortonville Road [2½ miles], through Spring Lake Township. Cost for grading a two-mile section of the Spring Lake-Coopersville Road ranged from \$2,800 to \$4,000.

Some blacktop was used in the early years, but concrete wasn't widely used until 1915. By 1917 the State of Michigan required roads to be a minimum of nine feet wide to qualify for reimbursement of \$2,000 per mile, or \$4,000 per mile for state trunk lines. Among the first paved sections was a three mile stretch on the West Michigan Pike, running between Holland and Grand Haven. West Michigan Pike was a state trunk line and was numbered M-11 before it became part of the national highway system in the mid-1920s and renumbered as U.S. 31. In the northern part of the county, plans were made for the Dixie Highway, to run from Spring Lake east to Lloyd's Bayou, and then on to Coopersville and Marne. This state trunk route was numbered M-16, later redesignated U.S. 16, and more recently, with some rerouting, as I-96. In the early 1920s Mercury Drive and West Spring Lake Road were paved. It was about this time that many trees and shrubs were planted to line the new highways and roads. By the 1930s asphalt became increasingly popular as a less expansive way to pave roadbeds. During the depths of the Great Depression, several work relief projects were undertaken, including grading and laying a gravel road following the shore of Lake Michigan from Grand Haven to Port Sheldon, which was completed

without benefit of machinery or even teams of horses. Later called Lakeshore Drive, the road split at Port Sheldon, Lakeshore continuing southwest toward Lakewood and Ottawa Beach and the other road, called Butternut, going southeast and ending where it intersected with U.S. 31 [136<sup>th</sup> Avenue] about a mile north of Holland. Lakeshore Drive south of Grand Haven was paved for the first time shortly after World War II.

With the improvements of the roads, the use of bridges became increasingly important. In 1914 a \$2,000 bid was accepted to build a 24-foot steel bridge across Millhouse Bayou, as part of Peach Plains Road. A series of problems delayed completion of the span until summer the next year. By 1925 that bridge had to be replaced. Another major project was the swing bridge over the Grand River at Eastmanville, completed in 1916 at a cost of \$39,000. When this bridge was replaced after World War II, it cost more than \$600,000. A ferry transported traffic traveling the Bridge Street Road across the Grand River in Allendale Township until a bridge was opened in 1926. It was 21' wide and cost \$75,000. A bridge over Petty's Bayou in Spring Lake Township, completed in 1947, was named in honor of Carl Bowen's decades of service. The Stearns Bayou Bridge soon followed, replacing a 60-year-old structure that was built before the Road Commission came into existence.

Carl Bowen was hired as Engineer-Manager of the Road Commission in the early 1920s. His salary was set at \$5,200 a year in 1924, not a bad wage in those days, but it increased by only \$300 over the next 20 years. He retired in 1953, after more than 30 years. The Commission was given responsibility for the county parks, but a comprehensive park system wasn't planned until the late 1950s. Tunnel Park, north of Lake Macatawa, was developed by the Commission for recreational purposes. It was given its name for the tunnel cut through the dunes to make access to the beach easier. In 1941 development of North Beach Park was begun. Before 1960 two new parks were opened: Riverside in Robinson Township and Deer Park in Polkton. These were followed by Grose Park Crockery Township in 1962, Hager Park in Georgetown Township in the mid-1970s, and Pigeon Creek Park in Olive Township about the same time. Kirk Park was purchased from the Boy Scouts and opened to the public in August 1973.

The construction of Grand Valley State College in Allendale Township led to the Road Commission taking on the responsibility of public works, specifically water and sanitation, to ensure that the institution could have its own water and sewer system.

Road maintenance, including snow removal, was part of the Commission's responsibilities, and that meant additional vehicles and storage space. In the mid-1930s the Commission moved the garage and offices to 616 North Sixth Street in Grand Haven, and then in the late 1980s the facilities were moved again, this time to the Rosy Mound area in Grand Haven Township, just east of Lakeshore Drive.

## **1911 TUESDAY MUSICALE [1911-?]**

Mary L. Soule in 1911 was named the first president of a civic organization called the Tuesday Musicale. Its primary goal was to ensure the appreciation of music throughout Northwest Ottawa County. The group initially met in members' homes on the second Tuesday of each month, but later moved to public places, such as churches or the Community Center. About 1920, when Florence Vyn was President, a scholarship fund was established and later named in her honor. Another early member was Spring Lake resident Elizabeth De Bruyn, who also was an artist. The Musicale raised money through dues and by hosting two teas per year. The funds helped young people take music lessons, study ballet, and attend camps such as Interlochen and Blue Lake. Membership once exceeded 100, and by the year 2000 had leveled off at about 70. The Tuesday Musicale and Grand Haven Woman's Club occasionally worked together to further the missions of both groups. The Musicale was still active in 2011, when it celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**1911 SPRING LAKE COUNTRY CLUB [1911-present]**

Located at 17496 Fruitport Road, Spring Lake Country Club was founded by William Savidge on February 6, 1911, when enough stock was sold, to enable shareholders to purchase 140 acres of the Benjamin Soule farm for \$6,000. A nine-hole golf course was built, and the old farmhouse was converted to a clubhouse by bringing the dining room up even with the front of the house, while the barn became the men's locker and shower room. The fairways for several years were a mass of sandburs. Men wore long trousers and leather puttees to protect them from the burs. Women, too, became interested and despite the burs began to swing the clubs. Demands by resorters for membership and increased local memberships soon made an 18-hole course necessary, and a second round of nine holes was added. In 1925 the organization issued bonds for the construction of a Spanish-style clubhouse. When the new building was dedicated on May 31, 1926, William Savidge was President of the Country Club; Claude Hopkins, Vice President; William H. Loutit, Secretary; Bernath P. Sherwood, Treasurer; the directors were Nathaniel Robbins, Herman F. Harbeck, A. W. Hompe, Chauncey M. Blakeslee, and Adlai T. Ewing.

**1913 CLAUS KATT SHIP YARD [1913-?]**

Claus Katt started his ship-building career at the Giles Shipyard in Ludington and later became superintendent at the Ferrysburg Ship Yard. It was at Giles that Claus designed the *Johanna*, a 42-foot steel tug built at the shipyard in 1912 for Roy and Martin O'Beck of Grand Haven. Claus started his own shipbuilding business in Ferrysburg in 1913, producing riveted, steel pleasure boats, such as *Easy Life*, *Black Cat*, and *Mary*. Claus's shipyard was located north of Johnston Brothers, at the site of the former Pearson Ship Yard. In 1920 Claus was working as a fitter at a shipyard in Chicago. He died in 1936.

**1914 SPRING LAKE STATE BANK/PEOPLES BANK & TRUST CO. [1914-present]**

In 1913 Spring Lake Village residents felt they were prosperous enough to have their own banking facility and raised the \$25,000 required by law at that time to organize a bank, and a charter was granted by the Michigan Banking Commission in February 1914 to Spring Lake State Bank. Original officers were Aloys Bilz, President; George W. Christman, Vice President; Thomas Johnston, Vice President; and Milton Morse, Cashier. Other directors included Paul F. Markoff, Herman F. Harbeck, and Leroy Heath. Their first offices were shared with Bilz's Bicycle Shop at 304 West Savidge, furnished with only two borrowed roll-top desks, a counter with chicken-wire openings, and a safe. In 1918 the bank moved to a new structure at 210 West Savidge, where the Michigan State Police had offices on the second floor. In 1954 the bank moved again, this time to the northwest corner of Buchanan and Savidge Streets. On July 2, 1962, the bank merged with Peoples' Bank and Trust, making the combined assets total \$19,500,000. The new banking institution operated under the charter of the Peoples' Bank and Trust Company and was known by its corporate name.

**1914 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA [1914-present]**

Grand Haven's first Boy Scout troop was organized in 1914. The county's first Boy Scout camp, located in Section 33 of Grand Haven Township, is now part of Kirk Park.

**1915 PARENT TEACHER CLUBS [1915-present]**

In 1915 Superintendent of Schools, John C. Hoekje, organized the first Parent Teacher Club in Northwest Ottawa County. The purpose of the organization was to foster cooperation and understanding between teachers and the students' parents. Alta Ardis, wife of Mark Ardis, was the club's charter President.

**1915 AMAZON KNITTING WORKS [1915-1927]**



A branch factory for Amazon Knitting Works was secured by the new Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce and located near the corner of Monroe and North Sixth Streets [616 North Sixth] in 1915. The branch was not successful, and the operation left in 1927 to become part of the Amazon plant in Muskegon. In 1927 Ottawa County bought the property to house its Road Maintenance Division.

**1915 LORRAINE MFG. & IMPORTING CO. [1915-1928]**

Lorraine Manufacturing started in Grand Haven in 1915 with offices above Peoples Bank and a factory at the southwest corner of Third and Franklin Streets. William A. Hanrahan of Grand Haven, one of the organizers, was named Secretary-Treasurer. The company employed 11 salesmen and 50-60 young women in the factory. The firm imported human hairnets from China, English needles, Swedish cutlery, and Irish thread and linens, and manufactured crochet hooks, pearl buttons, etc. It went out of business in 1928 when Irene Castle, stage and screen star, started the "Bobbed Hair" fashion, resulting in their largest seller, hairnets, becoming a thing of the past.

**1916 CHICAGO FILE & RASP CO. [1916-1924]**

Chicago File & Rasp, located at 402 South Harbor Drive, opened in 1916 and ceased operations in 1924. The next year Sam Garvin's company purchased the property.

**1916 ROBINHOOD THEATER [1916-1957]**

A 350-seat movie theater named the Robinhood opened at 217 Washington Street in Grand Haven on July 1, 1916. Martha, daughter of Arthur Elliott, at the age of 14 won a contest to name the theater. Owned by Nathaniel Robbins, the movie house showed not only films, but vaudeville shows and other stage attractions as well. It closed permanently in 1957, and 13 years later the building was razed to make room for expansion of Old Kent Bank [Fifth Third].

**1916 DEREMO DAIRY [1916-1946]**

Harry Deremo had been supplementing the family income by harvesting river clams and selling them since his daughter Dorothy's birth in 1904. Even as a child, Dorothy worked with her father in the business. Occasionally they found pearls, which brought a high price, and the button factory in Lamont bought quantities of them to make buttons out of the shells. Among Dorothy's and Harry's favorite clamming spots were Potawatomi Bayou and another nearby inlet that was named for Joseph L. Deremo, who, as early as 1852, owned the acreage surrounding Deremo Bayou. With the clamming business in steep decline, Dorothy raised and sold chickens and turkeys for two or three years. Then, in 1916, she and her father started Deremo Dairy, which they operated until 1946. Their 39-acre farm was located in Section 35 [North] of Grand Haven Township. After the dairy closed, Dorothy started raising and selling Christmas trees.

**1917 KELLER TOOL DIVISION/GARDNER-DENVER CO./GARDNER AIR TOOLS/COOPER AIR TOOLS [1917-1982]**

The origin of Keller Tools dated to 1893 when Julius Keller, then head of the Philadelphia Pneumatic Tool Company, built a pneumatic chipping hammer. This development was soon followed by the introduction of a riveting hammer. Both of these tools were built in very limited quantities until the demand for them indicated that pneumatic tools would play an important part in American industry. Recognizing this, Keller in 1912 moved the company from Philadelphia to Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. In the summer of 1916, William Connelly, then Secretary of the Grand Haven Board of Trade, overheard a telephone conversation in Chicago about a firm in Wisconsin needing a new plant, but also needing capital. This was the Keller Pneumatic Tool Company in Fond Du Lac. Returning home he located four men willing to risk the necessary capital and purchase 49% of the stock. The investors were William Loutit I, Nathaniel Robbins, Bernath P. Sherwood I, and William Hatton. The contract was completed in the fall of 1916 when the Board

gave Keller \$5,000 and five acres on Fulton Street [1333 Fulton]. Coming here as the Keller Pneumatic Tool Company in 1917, the name was changed in 1921 to William H. Keller, Inc., which issued catalogs during the 1920s with the name Super Pneumatic Tools. It was called the Keller Tool Co. from 1944, until its merger with Gardner-Denver in 1954. The Gardner-Denver Company had its beginning in 1859 when R. W. Gardner founded the Gardner-Governor Company in Quincy, Illinois. The early activities of this small business were confined to the manufacture of fly ball governors for steam engines. The production of steam pumps began in 1890. In 1905, The Denver Rock Manufacturing Company was established in Denver, Colorado. The early success of this company was built around an air-fed stopper drill. In the years that followed, other types of rock drills and mining equipment were added to the line. Because the products of the two companies were complementary, the firms merged in 1927, forming the Gardner-Denver Company. By the mid-1940s Keller's #2 plant occupied 734 Park Avenue.

In 1975 the Gardner-Denver Company, headquartered in Dallas, Texas made public its completion of an agreement to acquire Demco, Inc., a leading manufacturer of valves for the petroleum industry. The same year the company entered into an agreement to acquire the assets of Dotco Inc., a manufacturer of industrial finishing tools, whose headquarters and plant were in Hicksville, Ohio.

On January 22, 1979 Gardner-Denver Company announced it would merge with Cooper Industries of Houston, Texas. Then, on December 16, 1981, Cooper Industries, Inc. confirmed plans to relocate before the end of the next year the Grand Haven operations of its Cooper Air Tools Division to a 155,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Lexington County, South Carolina, 10 miles southwest of Columbia, and its wire wrap machine, assembly, and engineering operations to Nashua, New Hampshire. Management said that the Grand Haven plant was an extremely old, high-cost operation, and reduced volume left it uneconomical to operate, and that 400 of the 550 employees would lose their jobs. The company closed on October 26, 1982 and gave the Grand Haven Economic Development Corporation its vacant industrial and office building at 1333 Fulton, property with an estimated market value of more than \$1.2 million.

**1917 PEERLESS NOVELTY CO./STANCO METAL PRODUCTS, INC. [1917-present]**

Peerless Novelty was officially established by Warren Stansberry I, Albert F. Vorce, and Edwin H. Witherell on January 1, 1917 and located in the Vanden Bosch building, above the later location of the Oakes Insurance Agency. However, the business may have been operating as early as 1915 above the Stansberry saloon at 133 Washington Street. The original product was a thread retainer for use in sewing, and later the company produced novelty goods. The building they occupied burned on Easter Sunday, 1920, and in the same year the firm moved to a location at Fulton and First Streets [105 Fulton] with 22,000 sq. ft., which was vacated when the company, then known as Stanco, moved to 2101 168<sup>th</sup> Street in Grand Haven Township. It also occupied a building at 705 West Savidge in Spring Lake.

**1917 PANHARD MOTOR CO./HAMILTON MOTOR CO. [1917-1922]**

Panhard, originated as Cincinnati Motors Manufacturing Company in Ohio in 1914, in 1917 moved to Grand Haven where it later was named Hamilton Motor Company. Hamilton's name also was associated with the Alter truck, which, however, was not produced in Grand Haven. Located in a building at 1301 Fulton Street, later occupied by Camfields, the company made Panhard trucks, many of which were sent overseas. During the three years that the truck was in actual production, one ton, one and a half ton, and two and a half ton models were offered. The first two had a 130-inch wheelbase, while the largest model had a 150-inch base. Each used a three-speed Fuller transmission and Torbenson internal-gear rear axle. The first Panhard was the one-ton model, powered by a Gray engine. In 1918 the one-ton truck was advertised at \$985, and the ton and a half for \$1185. Due to difficulties with French patents the business name was

changed to Hamilton Motor Company in 1919 and the trucks from Panhard to Apex. Henry A. Oswald was General Manager. Frame and cab were built by Panhard itself. An unusual feature in those days was pneumatic tires, standard equipment on the front wheels. On August 13, 1919, the company agreed to stop using the name Panhard for its trucks. The company name reverted to Hamilton and the name Apex was adopted for the trucks produced there. It went out of business in 1922.

**1917 PERE MARQUETTE RAILROAD CO. [1917-1947]**

The Chicago & West Michigan Railroad Company, which had a line running south to Holland and New Buffalo, where it joined the Michigan Central, in 1891 took control of the Chicago & North Michigan Railroad Company, which provided service as far north as Bay View, near Petoskey. On March 28, 1917 Pere Marquette, which was incorporated in 1899, bought the Chicago & Western at a foreclosure sale. By 1929 the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company had a controlling interest in Pere Marquette, and by April 1, 1947 the two companies merged under the C & O name, later becoming CSX. The passenger depot was at 333 Madison [later 333 Jackson] in Grand Haven, originally built in 1870 for passengers on the Chicago & West Michigan Railroad. This frame building burned down in 1926 and was replaced the following year by a brick structure that served the Pere Marquette until 1971, when the company ceased carrying passengers.

**1917 AMERICAN RED CROSS [OTTAWA COUNTY CHAPTER] [1917-present]**

As early as the Civil War, local women, such as Eleanor Griffin McNett, Nettie Squier, and Minnie Albee, gathered pieces of white cloth to be made into bandages for use in treating the wounded. In the fall of 1909 the Red Cross was formally organized in Grand Haven with former Mayor Joseph O'Brien elected Chairman; Agnes Koster, Secretary; and Maud Loutit, Treasurer. In 1914 the Grand Haven Chapter was one of only two throughout the State of Michigan. On May 10, 1917 the Ottawa County Chapter received its official charter, signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The Chapter was divided into two branches, one in Holland and the other in Grand Haven. At the first recorded organizational meeting of the Grand Haven branch at the Carnegie Library on Third Street, O'Brien was again elected Chairman, Lizzie Lee Shupe, Vice Chair; Eleanor Griffin McNett, Secretary; and Henry Verhoeks, Treasurer. McNett became the Chapter's executive in 1919, a post she held for 15 years.

**1918 COOK'S GROCERIES/COOK'S HARDWARE & PLUMBING/COOK'S TV & APPLIANCES [1918-present]**

In 1918 Jacob Cook opened a grocery store at 1118 Washington. Ten years later he converted to the hardware and plumbing business. In 1954 he and sons Ed and Al erected a new building at 1116 Washington. Later they bought the grocery store building at 1100 Washington and opened a television and appliance store, with Al in charge. A son of Al, Jack Cook, managed the hardware and plumbing business in more recent years. A second son, Jim, also was in the business. The hardware business closed permanently in 2003.

**1919 OTTAWA COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION [1919-?]**

William H. Loutit, Aloys Bilz, J. Bradstetter, and George P. Savidge II founded the Ottawa County Fish and Game Association in 1919.

**1919 HATTON HOSPITAL/NORTH OTTAWA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL [1919-present]**

Grand Haven's first hospital was located near the southeast corner of Fifth and Franklin Streets, in a two-story frame home originally occupied by Captain William Loutit and his family. Called the Elizabeth Hatton Memorial Hospital, in honor of William Hatton's deceased wife, it opened in 1919. Hatton was President of Eagle Ottawa.

The area's second hospital built at 1309 Sheldon Road in 1939, at the southwest corner of Sheldon and Taylor Streets, cost \$76,915. The two and a half story brick building had a capacity of 47 beds and a staff of 10 physicians. The first floor was for medical-surgical patients, and the second floor was for obstetrics, the operating room, and delivery suite. In 1953 an obstetrics wing was added to the west of the original building, bringing the total number of beds to 71. It had other substantial additions over the years. In 1970 a medical-surgical wing was added, and the capacity increased to 77 beds at a cost of \$3,200,000. Nine years later a second modernization cost 1.3 million dollars, and in 1994 a 14-million-dollar expansion and remodeling project was completed. In 1967 voters of Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Robinson, and Crockery, approved a 10-year tax levy to establish the North Ottawa Community Hospital Authority. 28 years later residents voted to change it to a private not-for-profit organization. In late summer 2001 a 74,000 sq. ft., \$11,000,000 ambulatory care center opened after nearly two years of construction. The new structure was adjacent to and connected with the hospital. It was financed by a cooperative agreement between Lakeshore Healthcare and North Ottawa Community Hospital. As a corporation, the new entity was not tax exempt.

#### **1919 AMERICAN LEGION [1919-present]**

In 1919 the local American Legion met at the armory and chose Charles Conklin, Post No. 28 for its name. Conklin, who died from wounds received in France during WW I, was the first local resident to fall in that conflict. The post was officially chartered on August 1, 1920, and its first Commander was Daniel Van Woerkom. For awhile the group met in the basement of the Carnegie Library on Third Street, and then in rooms over the Kroger Grocery store on Washington. In 1936 it convened in the Oakes Building, on the corner of Third and Washington, and finally, in 1938, the Legion constructed its own building at 700 South Harbor Drive, where it has remained.

#### **1919 GRAND HAVEN BRASS FOUNDRY [1919-2000]**

Started in 1907 by William Zoerner in a barn at 507 Monroe near Sixth Street, Zoerner Foundry was purchased on February 20, 1919 by Alvin E. Jacobson I and Paul Johnson I and renamed Grand Haven Brass Foundry. On December 23, 1919 the plant burned down and was a total loss. The 2,000 sq. ft. Cut Sole Plant at 230 North Hopkins Street was immediately purchased from the Eagle Ottawa Leather Company and remodeling began on January 1, 1920. The company employed six persons and produced toilet seat hinges, plumbers' brass goods, automobile brass parts, brass, and aluminum castings.

On April 5, 1927 Jacobson and Johnson bought out two metal working plants, Grand Haven Stamped Products and one in New Jersey. In 1965 the company, with its modern foundry and machine shop was considered one of the largest in the brass goods field. The firm produced a wide variety of plumbing brass goods, castings, and electrical service fittings, along with casting and fitting for water service water softeners and water meters. Diversification of products was the backbone of the company.

In November 1956 Paul Johnson I died of a heart attack. Johnson was President of Grand Haven Stamped Products for 31 years, Treasurer of Dake Corp., and a Director of Rapideast Corp.

Brass Foundry was known for several innovations, including in 1951 the first successful use in the country of carboloy for chasers to cut threads on brass parts; in 1954 the first brass foundry to make cores in dielectric ovens that required driers; in 1958 the first multiductor electric furnace built in operation; and in 1962 the purchase of the first Goss 1-2-3 seven-spindle screw machine.

In June 1987 Robert G. Lehman was named president. He succeeded Alvin E. Jacobson II, who retired after 39 years of service, including 17 years as President. Jacobson continued as Vice Chairman of JSJ.

Grand Haven Brass closed in April 2000, following a substantial reduction in orders when Moen Faucet discontinued doing business with the firm.

**1920 CLYDE HENDRICK REAL ESTATE [1920-present]**

Clyde Hendrick opened a real estate office in Muskegon in 1920. In 1966 the Grand Haven office was opened in a house at the southwest corner of Grant and Beacon under the management of Hendrick's son, Robert, while his son-in-law, Gerald Jett, ran the Muskegon office until his death in 1993. An office building was constructed at 415 South Beacon and enlarged in 1992. In February 1997, the office became part of the nationwide Prudential Real Estate chain. Robert's wife, Jan, took over management of the Muskegon office and their son Dan became Office Manager of the Grand Haven office.

**1920 CAMP CHEBOYGAN FOR BOYS [1920-@1937]**

Camp Cheboygan for boys opened on the north side of Potawatomie Bayou in 1920 in Section 35 of Grand Haven Township]. The camp's founder, John Eliot Noon of Missouri, owned the 20-acre parcel it sat on and was its director. The camp was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1929. That winter the camp was rebuilt and continued to operate until at least 1937. Boys could stay at the camp one week for \$15, eight weeks for \$120, or ten weeks for \$140. Activities consisted of canoeing, swimming, baseball, tennis, basketball, track, and fishing. A 1934 brochure stated, "Camp Cheboygan is not far from the famous Battle Creek and other health resorts, in that region of wonderfully cool, bracing atmosphere. Warm, mellow sunshiny days, and cool, clear, cloudless nights. There is no hay fever at Camp Cheboygan." Campers came from as far away as Illinois, Missouri, and, Pennsylvania.

**1920 GRAND HAVEN GOSPEL HALL [1920-present]**

Grand Haven Gospel Hall was started by Earle Cook as a mission in the Grey Block [16 Washington] in 1920. The next year Gospel Hall moved to the Bible Tabernacle at the corner of Second and Columbus Streets, then to a location at Franklin and De Spelder Streets, next to the corner of Seventh and Columbus [22 North Seventh], and finally to 1805 Waverly. By the 1940s there also was a Gospel Mission, located at 3 North Eastern Avenue, and there may be some confusion between the two. See also First Baptist Church of Grand Haven [1924].

**1921 TOM JOHNSTON GRAVEL CO. [1921-1967]**

Tom Johnston Gravel Company was founded in 1921 by Thomas James Johnston I and Captain Duncan McDonald, with partners by the name of Henning, Henning, and Donahue. [Tom Johnston married Grace Henning.] McDonald died in 1937. The company changed in 1947 to a partnership between Tom Johnston and his son Thomas Frederick Johnston, who became sole owner in September 1948, following his father's death. The firm owned large gravel beds up the Grand River, and operated tugs and barges to bring the gravel to a plant on Pine Street in Ferrysburg where it was screened and graded before being sold to road building and contracting industries. It employed six persons. The sudden death on August 5, 1959 of Tom F. Johnston II, sole owner of the gravel plant, brought a change in responsibilities for Harold Scholtz, a brother-in-law of the 38-year-old businessman who had suffered a fatal heart attack. The last gravel run on the Grand River was made in 1967.

**1922 LAKESHORE REDI-MIX/VANDERWALL BROS. CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. [1922-present]**

Located two miles north of Ferrysburg on Old Grand Haven Road [19156 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue] Vander Wall Bros. Concrete Products was started by William Vander Wall in 1922. After his death in 1955, it was continued by his sons, Gerald Vander Wall and William Vander Wall II. A 1978 advertisement listed its products: "Concrete Blocks, Cement, Chimney Blocks, Lite-Weight

Blocks, Decorative Blocks, and Fireplace Material.” Lakeshore Redi-Mix in 1978, located nearby at 19126 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue, purchased the Vander Wall business but continued to operate under the Vanderwall name until at least 2025.

**1922 BILDMORE BLOCK CO. [1922-1924]**

Organized by C. M. Hurd and John R. Fisher, Bildmore Block began operations in 1922 in a warehouse on Harbor Avenue, where “The Barn” roller skating rink later was located [215 South Harbor]. About six months later it moved into the former Columbus Street School at approximately 122 Columbus. The company employed about 12 people manufacturing building blocks for toy houses. It was possible for children to erect over 100 different types of buildings from one set. Bildmore closed in 1924.

**1922 HAYES BODY CO. [1922-1925]**

A branch of the Hayes Body Company of Grand Rapids was located at 1301 Fulton Street in Grand Haven. The company returned to Grand Rapids in 1925, three years after its start in Grand Haven. About 1925 the building was occupied by Eagle Ottawa.

**1922 E-Z WAY SPRAYER CO. [1922-1925]**

E-Z Way Sprayer in 1922 moved to Ottawa County from Detroit to produce hand sprayers for farm and garden purposes. Located on West Savidge Street in Spring Lake, it lasted a short time and moved to make way for the Sterling Manufacturing Company of Chicago.

**1922 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY [1922-present]**

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 28, was established in 1922. Its mission statements read: “In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.” In 2018 the Auxiliary had nearly 1,500 members.

**1923 MICHAEL GEORGE PEN CO. [1923-1928]**

The Michael George Pen Company was owned and operated by George Kraker. Leaving his position as Sales Manager for the Sheaffer Pen Company, Kraker went into business for himself in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Later he purchased the Evenflo Pen Company of Grand Rapids and the Kleeno Pen Company and in 1923 opened a Grand Haven plant on Washington Street east of Beechtree, where the Polish Falcon Hall stood. On the southeast corner of Washington and Beechtree Streets, which at that time was designated M-11 and later U.S. 31, was Marod’s grocery store [approximately 6 North Beechtree], while at the east end of Washington Street was a brick building occupied by the Wiley Water Works [1510 Washington]. The pen company occupied the Water Works building, since the utility had moved to 16 Sherman in 1927. Merging early in 1924 with the Michael George Pen Company of Chicago, Kraker’s firm manufactured fountain pens, under the Pencraft name, which were considered among the best medium-priced pens on the market. They featured needle points and could be considered a forerunner to the present ball-point pen. Officers were George Kraker, Manager, J. Nyhof Poel, Office Manager, and Harry Gerber, Superintendent. Fred Kieft was foreman in the grinding and punch press department and the annealing process. The second floor had a shipping and assembly department. John Hannigan was Foreman of the gold pen department.

The materials used were hard rubber, pyroxyline, and material made from milk products. The pens were sized to 3/8, 1/2, and 5/8 inches and came in two lengths. The rubber pens were in black, brown, and mottled, and the pyroxyline came in almost any color, as well as mottled with fish scales. The pen points were all made from 14K gold. The more expensive ones had iridium tipped

nibs. The style and workmanship compared to Parker, Sheaffer, and other advertised lines and sold at about the same price. The largest sales were to the Rexall Drug Stores under their brand names. The plant would get an order for about 5,000,000 pens each spring, which kept it busy, plus producing its own line, which comprised about one-twentieth of the production. The company's brand name was Pencraft. The company was reorganized in April 1928 and moved to Libertyville, Illinois in December.

**1924 KINNEY SAND CO./STANDARD SAND CO. [1924-present]**

Started as the Kinney Sand Company in 1924, it shortly afterward changed its name to Standard Sand Company. Located at Rosy Mound on Lakeshore Drive south of Grand Haven, the company mined sand to be sold to foundries and railroads. It employed about six people. Fred Showers was the first Superintendent. He was followed by Franklin Goettman. Showers's daughter, Esther E. Blaksley, was accountant for the company for 41 years.

**1924 BOLLING MANUFACTURING CO./GRAND HAVEN STAMPED PRODUCTS CO. [1924-present]**

Baltzar Bolling started the Bolling Manufacturing Company in 1924 in a frame building on Harbor Drive [201 South Harbor]. At one time this 6,000 sq. ft. building housed the Grand Haven Electric Light and Water Plant. Paul A. Johnson I, Bernath P. Sherwood I, Emil Gaul, Alvin E. Jacobson I, and Abram [Abraham] T. Kieft took over the company in 1927 and renamed it Grand Haven Stamped Products. In 1928 the company moved into a new building at 1305 Madison Street. The company produced stamped and cast hardware for Challenge Refrigerator, the Piano Factory, and the automobile industry. When Challenge Refrigerator Company went out of business in 1929 and with the slowing down of activity at the Story & Clark Piano Company during the depression, new types of products and markets had to be developed. It was then that the energies and resources of the people at the Stamped Products were directed towards metal stamping for the automotive industry, railroad parts, and hot water heaters. In 1943 the company started working on its tractor program and a pilot model was made for testing purposes. Because of scarcity of materials during the World War II, only a few tractors were sold until late in 1945. One of its products at that time was a small, "all-purpose," six-horsepower tractor that sold for \$639. During the war, the company provided furniture hardware for Montgomery Ward, in addition to its other products. It also manufactured a cultivator for celery farmers.

Although the company started as a manufacturer of cultivator tractors, the demand for additional equipment resulted in the company producing accessories adaptable to plowing, planting, mowing, snow plowing, and multiple row cultivation of onions, carrots, and other small row crop. In the 1950s the company's main products were gear shift lever housings and horn brackets. On July 12, 1967, the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that the company was doubling its plant size by construction of a new building on 20 acres at 1250 Beechtree, just south of the Marion Street industrial park, a site it occupied the following year. The estimated cost of the factory was more than \$600,000, and the company would employ over 100 persons. Later, additional plants were opened in Spring Lake and Hart, with total employment of over 530 in 1997. By then the firm had become a major supplier of automatic gear shift mechanisms to the auto industry.

**1924 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMAN'S CLUB [1924-?]**

Mary Vesta Doan Garnsey was a leader in organizing the Business and Professional Woman's Club in 1924. One of the group's missions was to provide for the college education of local high school graduates.

**1924 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN [1924-present]**

Organized in 1924 under the leadership of Earle Cook, the first building of the First Baptist Church was at the corner of Franklin and De Spelder Streets [1001 Franklin]. George Benedict, Claude Barr, and Harvey Darby were local residents who helped in the church's founding. See also Grand Haven Gospel Hall [1920]

**1924 BOLLING MANUFACTURING CO. [1924-1927]**

In 1924 Baltzar Bolling, a manufacturer from Chicago, started the Bolling Manufacturing Company. After he sold the firm in October 1927, it was renamed Grand Haven Metal Products Co. The next year Bolling started the Lumite Company.

**1924 GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA [1924-present]**

Although the Girl Scouts may have been organized in Grand Haven as early as 1920, the group apparently disbanded after a short time. The present organization started in 1924 with Troops I and II. Minnie Young of Grand Haven was an early leader of the movement. The Girl Scouts received funding from the Community Chest [United Way] for the first time in 1929. In 1931 a Girl Scout Community Committee was organized, replaced four years later by a Girl Scout Council, and in 1933 the first local director was named. Also in 1933 Troops III, IV, and V and the first Brownie Pack were organized. In 1934 five Scouts from Troop I won the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Golden Eaglet. The next year the Scouts were provided with office space in the old City Hall, and also that year Girl Scout Play Day was inaugurated. In 1936 the Griffin residence at 315 Franklin was secured as the first Girl Scout Little House. *The Griffin*, the first Mariner's ship, was organized in 1938, as were Troops VI and Brownie Pack II. That year membership totaled 157 girls. The Spring Lake Girl Scouts started as part of the Grand Haven Girl Scout Council in 1939. Brownie Packs III and IV and the Spring Lake Pack were formed that year, as well as a new Spring Lake Troop. Membership then totaled 206 girls, with 20 leaders and assistants. In 1940 the Grand Haven Girl Scout Council was given funds from the Jacob and Eleanor McNett estate to build the Eleanor Griffin-McNett Memorial Girl Scout House, and construction began that year. Marie Ellingson, Chriss Sprott, and Louise Roloff helped make the house a reality for the Scouts.

**1925 STERLING DEVICES MFG. CO. [1925-1925]**

Sterling moved to the Tri-Cities area from Chicago in 1925 and took over the building formerly occupied by E-Z Sprayer in Spring Lake on West Savidge Street. It manufactured phonograph parts and went out of business in 1925, the same year it opened.

**1925 EAGLE OTTAWA CUTSOLE PLANT [1925-1944]**

The Eagle Ottawa Cut Sole Plant was set up in 1925 as a separate division of the Eagle Ottawa Leather Company to manufacture cut soles for the shoe industry. It had about 30,000 sq. ft. of floor space and employed 75-100 people. It was located at 1301 Fulton Street, where it remained until 1944.

**1925 OTTAWA MFG. CO. [1925-1937]**

Started in 1925 by Eric Anderson in the building in Spring Lake where Stanco Company was once located [705 West Savidge], Ottawa Manufacturing produced tools and dies for the automotive industry and also made toy metal boats. A new building erected in 1929 had 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space at 510 West Liberty Street where the Burnside Company was located. At the time it went out of business in 1937 it employed about 25 people.

**1925 IMPERIAL MFG. CO. [1925-1925]**

Imperial Manufacturing moved to this area from Chicago early in 1925. Located in the former Bildmore Block Company building [later known as the Barn] at 215 South Harbor Drive [the



Barn], the company manufactured items made of wood, such as jewelry boxes. The same year it arrived in Grand Haven, Imperial announced that it would relocate to Cadillac.

**1925 SAM GARVIN CO. [1925-2002]**

Sam and George Garvin opened a plant in Grand Haven in 1925 as a branch of the Chicago factory, which was started in 1899. Production actually began locally in 1926. A 1930 atlas showed that Garvin owned some acreage on the South Channel near the north end of Sixth Street [702 North Sixth], just west of the Dake Engine Company. However, when the business started it employed about six people and had a floor space of 10,000 sq. ft. at its location at 402 South Harbor, in a building Garvin had bought from Chicago File & Rasp Company. The firm manufactured electrical outlet boxes and covers, along with other products for the electrical trade. The original officer was Sam Garvin, owner and manager. In the 1940s and into the 1950s, Leo Anderson was Manager. By 1966 the company was under the leadership of the third generation of Garvins, with George Garvin II, President, Julius Prelesnik, Manager, and Bette Garvin, Secretary and Treasurer. On January 12, 1977 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that Garvin's plant, one of the oldest factory buildings in Grand Haven was completely destroyed when fire raced through the one-story structure. Estimated damage was \$250,000, although much of the \$100,000 inventory was salvaged. In recent years the company was located at 722 Taylor Street. The company ceased its metal stamping operation in Grand Haven in the spring of 2002.

**1925 HOMEL SHIRT CO. [1925-1926]**

The Homel Shirt Company of Ludington was brought to Grand Haven by the Chamber of Commerce, which in 1924 began construction of a new factory building at 702 North Sixth Street. Operations began early in 1925. After operating about a year, the company moved to Chicago.

**1925 NEITRING'S COAL DOCK [abt. 1925-abt. 1966]**

About 1925 Henry II established one of the largest coal yards on the east shore of Lake Michigan. Named Neitring's Coal Dock, it started at 205 Fulton, where he and his family also resided. The yards were moved to City Island [Harbor Island], with the address 1125 North Third. Henry started out making deliveries with a horse and wagon. On December 25, 1936, 50,000 tons of coal stored on Harbor Island caught fire by internal combustion and burned for a week, despite efforts by the Grand Haven Fire Department and the Coast Guard Cutter *Escanaba*. Henry also established a coal yard in Holland, which he sold about 1945.

**1926 VAN ZANTWICK FUNERAL HOME/VAN ZANTWICK, BARTELS & KAMMERAAD FUNERAL HOME [1926-present]**

After being located at 208 Franklin Street in Grand Haven for a few years, the Van Zantwick funeral home was located in the George Sanford home at 620 Washington Street by 1930. The business was started in 1926 by Govert Van Zantwick, who had been an employee of John Boer and the Boer & Sons Furniture and Undertaking store in downtown Grand Haven. Prior to 1926 local furniture store owners served as morticians by embalming bodies and providing coffins and hearses. The deceased were kept in their residences until burial. Van Zantwick's idea was to open a home that provided all the services, including a place of repose for the deceased. The first funeral from the Franklin Street site was held in May 1926. Herman Van Zantwick took over the funeral business after his father's death in 1944, and two years later Charles M. Ayers joined his as co-owner. In Spring Lake Cornelius Ringold and his son, Gerard, bought Enno Pruijm's Hardware and Undertaking store in 1919, eventually focusing solely on the mortuary aspect. About the same time, Don Barbier started as an apprentice mortician in Detroit at the Henry J. Stahl Funeral Home in 1926 and was licensed as a funeral director two years later. In 1931 he became a partner in the Robinson-Barbier Funeral Home in Lansing. In 1947 Barbier bought the

Ringold Funeral Home at 213 East Savidge, which he sold on December 1, 1966 to Joseph Kammeraad, owner of Kammeraad Funeral Home at 208 Franklin. Two years later Kammeraad sold both the Kammeraad and Barbier Homes to Van Zantwick. In January 1978, Van Zantwick merged with the Bartels and Kinkema Funeral Home, located at 120 South Seventh Street, and combined operations in Grand Haven and Spring Lake under the name Van Zantwick, Bartels, & Kammeraad. In December 1993 owners Dale Van Zantwick and Dave Klaassen sold the consolidated businesses to Prime Business Solutions of Erlanger, Kentucky, but continued to manage it. In 2001 Dale Van Zantwick and Si Workman bought back the business. Van Zantwick's funeral home was the first in Ottawa County to operate as a separate business, unrelated to furniture or some other line.

**1926 ROSEWALL & WEIL CO./KINSEY MFG. CO. [1926-1927]**

Rosewall & Weil Company in 1926 moved from Wisconsin into the Homel Shirt Company building at 702 North Sixth Street in Grand Haven. It was a garment manufacturing concern that lasted less than a year, when it suddenly moved to Chicago.

**1927 CEDARCRAFT CO. [1927-?]**

Cedarcraft was owned and operated by Walter E. Bassett and Guy Caldwell of Muskegon.

**1927 BUILTWEEL SEAT CO./BUILTWEEL MFG. CO./ SPRING LAKE SEATING CO. [1927-1934]**

Started by Charles La Fleur and Ernest P. Pace as the Builtwell Seat Company in 1927, the company manufactured toilet seats. In May 1928 a new partnership was formed by La Fleur and Pace known as the Spring Lake Seating Co. They bought the east half of the Spring Lake County Road building and continued the manufacture of plumbers' woodwork. In June 1928 the name was changed to the Fleurace Seat Company, manufacturing seats of three kinds in mahogany, oak, and white. In September 1929 the factory at the corner of Park and Liberty Streets was expanded and the Chicago firm moved here when it merged with the Builtwell Mfg. Company. A new building was erected in 1930 at 111 North Park, where the Superior Plating Company later was located. It employed about 30 men at that time. Officers of the merged firm were Charles La Fleur, President; George S. Christman, Vice President; Willie G. Turner of Muskegon, Secretary; and Ernest P. Pace, Treasurer. The business was disbanded in 1934.

**1927 OTTAWA STEEL PRODUCTS, INC. [1927-?]**

Piston Pin & Mfg. Company moved to Grand Haven from Detroit in 1927 and in June the next year changed its name to Ottawa Steel Products. Its offices and plant were in a newly constructed building at 745 Woodlawn. Original officers included Mr. and Mrs. Henning H. Nygren and Victor Palm of Detroit. At that time the firm manufactured piston pins and cylindrical shafts. In 1954 it was reported that Ottawa Steel Products Inc. had earned a reputation as specialists in the manufacture of hardened and precision ground screw machine products. This reputation had been built on quality products, skilled workmanship, and service to customers. The local firm, with its modernized plant of 26,250 square feet of floor space and modern equipment for 80 employees, helped solve the production problems of leading companies throughout the country. Parts were manufactured locally for use in hydraulics, heavy earth moving equipment, diesel engines, pumps, dispensing equipment, and armature shafts for the electrical industry. Among the items produced were spline shafts, valve plungers, pump shafts, Lanova type energy cells, control valves, rotor shafts, outer races, valve tappet rollers, and piston pins. Many of these parts were furnished to customers making assembled units in Algeria, England, Arabia, and India. In April 1962 the founder's son, H. Leigh Nygren, President of Ottawa Steel, sold his interests in the local firm and retired to Arizona.

**1927 NATIONAL UTILITIES CO./MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CO. [1927-present]**

A one-story, brick building to house the Grand Haven Gas Works was erected at 310 South Harbor [Lots 35 and 36] in 1885. In 1927 it became known as the National Utilities Company Gas Works. This company started furnishing artificial gas to Grand Haven in 1927 and adopted its new name of Michigan Gas Utilities on September 1, 1951. Coal gas from hand-fired ovens was used until 1943, when facilities were changed to produce water gas. The old gas plant was kept as a standby until 1945. In September 1946 the service was changed over to propane gas, which came in liquid form and was vaporized at the local plant. In May 1950, natural gas piped from Texas fields was introduced. The company more recently became known as Michigan Gas Utilities Company [MGU]. In 1964 MGU closed its office at 134 Washington and opened a service center at 310 South Harbor. At that time Michigan Gas had 1,500 miles of lines and served 54,000 customers throughout the state. In 1995 the utility, which served 18,300 area customers, moved from Harbor Drive to a larger facility at 1708 Eaton Drive. Officials said the \$1.2 million facility would make operations more convenient for employees and customers.

**1928 SPRING LAKE SEATING CO./FLEURACE SEAT CO. [1928-1934])**

See Builtwell Mfg. Company [1927].

**1928 GRAND THEATER [1928-1999]**

In 1927, to make room for a new movie theater, Grand Haven's third and most ornate, the buildings at the east end on the south side of this block of Washington were razed. The new, "modern theatre, with seating for 833, would be called the Grand. It followed the Robinhood and Crescent theaters, which also were constructed specifically to show movies. Grand Haven real estate agent Fred McCrea began the undertaking, but financial difficulties caused him to sell the L-shaped movie house to the Harry L. Sanford Syndicate of Grand Rapids, which included G. F. Healy and William Wilson of Muskegon. The theater was built by Spring Lake contractors Chauncey M. Blakeslee and his nephew, James Spencer, beginning in May 1927. The Syndicate owned the land east to First Street and planned to erect ten stores along Washington. Apartments were to be included above the stores, and at least one restaurant would be built. Sanford leased the theater to W. S. Butterfield Theatres, Inc., out of Detroit, which in 1927 owned or operated 50 of the leading theaters throughout Michigan. The Grand opened to the public for the first time on Monday, January 23, 1928, showing the silent movie *West Point*, starring William Haines. Admission was 25 cents for matinees and five cents more for evening shows. Children under 12 got in for a dime. The Great Crash of 1929 ended plans for the additional buildings.

The theater represented a \$175,000 investment, \$51,500 for the land, \$83,500 for the building, and \$40,000 for furnishings and equipment. The steel and concrete construction featured a two-story entrance of Italian design made of brick, stone, and tile with a variegated tile roof. Italian design also characterized the interior with "beautifully decorated panels of tapestry." An elaborate organ was one of the important pieces of equipment, and for many years. John Buchanan of Grand Haven was the organist. The fully equipped 60' x 25' theater stage, plus large dressing rooms in the basement, allowed live presentations, as well as motion pictures. The organist, John Buchanan of Grand Haven, who had helped paint and do general work during construction, also was given the job of custodian, a post he held for 39 years. Equipment for sound was added about 1930, and the original marquee was replaced in 1958, at the same time a new front entrance, new box office, new carpeting, and other renovations were made.

The Butterfield group sold the Grand in 1931 to the Schlossman Company, which operated it until 1961, when Butterfield bought it back. Five years later Jack Loeks Theaters purchased the movie house. In 1971 Loeks replaced the original seats with 520, which allowed more comfortable sitting. Seats were removed from the balcony about the same time. The screen and

projecting equipment were replaced then, as well. Loeks in 1996 sold the Grand to Vivid Imagination, Inc., consisting primarily of D. T. La Vercombe and his wife, Amy Lake. They closed the theater in December 1999, and eventually sold it to Steve and Carol Loftis, owners of the Snug Harbor on Harbor Drive. The Loftises also bought the adjacent Dee Lite [Thymes Three] Restaurant in the winter of 2001.

**1928 LUMITE CO. [1928-1929]**

Attracted to Grand Haven by the Chamber of Commerce in 1928, Lumite was located in the Robbins building at One South Harbor. Baltzar Bolling of Chicago, who earlier had started Bolling Manufacturing Co., was the owner. Lumite closed one year later. Bolling's next venture, Anderson-Bolling, wouldn't start until 1935.

**1928 SUPERIOR PRODUCTS CO. [1928-?]**

Brought to Grand Haven from Chicago in 1928 by the Chamber of Commerce, Superior Products was owned by Ernest P. Mars and located in a store building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Fulton Streets [335 Fulton, Lot 337]. It employed eight men in the manufacture of grinding stones for rotogravures and textile printing machines. It had some of the biggest newspapers in the country as its customers.

**1928 GRAND HAVEN GARDEN CLUB [1928-present]**

The Grand Haven Garden Club was formed in 1928 to foster an appreciation of flowers and gardening. In the 1930s John Van Schelven was President of the club, and Edwena E., wife of Joseph W. Eaton, was Secretary. Joseph Eaton was General Manager at Story & Clark.

**1929 ROTARY CLUB OF GRAND HAVEN [1929-present]**

The Rotary Club of Grand Haven was founded in the fall of 1929. Among the 31 charter members were Earl Babcock, William Bilz, Ted Bolt, Peter De Boe, Lawrence Dornbos, Joseph Eaton, William Hatton, Al Jacobson, Paul Johnson, John Johnston, Leo Lillie, Ernest McCall, John Mieras, Stephen Nemeth, Joe Nejem, Glenn Olsen, Fank Reghel, John Reichardt, B. P. Sherwood, William Stribley, Claude Vanderveen, and Peter Van Zylén. Lawrence Dornbos was the club's first president, who served from 1929 to 1931.

**1929 ABRASIVE ENGINEERING CORP. [1929-?]**

Started locally by Harley Harrison La Vercombe in February 1929 and located at 606 East Savidge Street in Spring Lake, Abrasive Engineering manufactured instruments for measuring the hardness of grinding wheels, honing stones, and all abrasive bodies. It employed three men. Officers were Harley La Vercombe, President; Mable Huff La Vercombe, Secretary-Treasurer; and P. Oren, Vice President. The business started in Detroit. In 1949 the owners started Forged Reamer Company at the same address, which they sold to Ray Johnson in 1956. Abrasive Engineering moved to 911 East River Street in the 1960s.

**1929 KUHNLE-WINSLOW MFG. CO. [1929-1931]**

In 1929 the Kuhnle-Winslow Company moved to Grand Haven from Chicago, where it had been in operation since 1914, and occupied a building on Harbor Avenue that was formerly used by the Lumite Company, near the Nat Robbins building at 1 South Harbor. Kuhnle-Winslow began manufacturing plumbing supplies and oil heaters with ten employees in 6,000 sq. ft. of floor space. In 1931 it merged with American Brass Novelty, later known as Michigan Brass Company. Fred C. Kuhnle of Grand Rapids, one of the founders, later was associated with Grand Haven Harbor Industries.

**1929 KIDDIE KOVER MFG. CO. [1929-1953]**

Moving to this area from Detroit, where the Kiddie Kover business was started in 1918 by Abraham J. Colman and Arthur T. Colten, the company in 1929 purchased a structure at 702 North Sixth Street, which originally had been built for the Homel Shirt Company in 1924 on land given to the City of Grand Haven by the defunct Board of Trade. The building was bought by Sam Garvin in 1926 when Homel closed. Garvin rented it for two years to Kinsey Manufacturing, which vacated in 1928. Kiddie Kover normally employed 25 people, of whom the majority was women. The major products of the local firm consisted of wearing apparel for children, such as crawlers, overalls, coveralls, pedal pushers, and shorts in all sizes and types, and women's shorts. The Kiddie Kover Manufacturing Company went out of business on April 17, 1953. The company announced it had sold its factory building to B & B Engineering Company and ASP & Manufacturing Company of Spring Lake. Abraham Colman, President of Kiddie Kover, passed away on August 18, 1952. His partner had died in 1937.

#### **1929 CHALLENGE STAMPING & PORCELAIN CO. [1929-1979]**

When Challenge Refrigerator closed in 1929, Adrian Ringelberg, its chief executive officer, worked with other key employees to start a new company to manufacture enameled porcelain. The plan included buying 26,000 sq. ft. of the Challenge Refrigerator building at 620 South Seventh Street. Later the new company obtained another 30,000 sq. ft. On October 19, 1929 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the County Clerk authorizing the Challenge Stamping and Porcelain Company to do business with a capital stock of \$50,000. The Corporation management team included Adrian Ringelberg, General Manager; Carl Kleist, head of the welding department; Eugene Orr Harbeck, in charge of sales; Anton Fosheim, heading up the metal department; Harvey Bulthouse, in charge of the porcelain department; and Cornelia Boomgaard, head of accounting. Like Ringelberg, Harbeck had been an officer of Challenge Refrigerator. Kleist, Fosheim, and Bulthouse had earlier come from Leonard Refrigerator in Grand Rapids, bringing to the new company their respective skills in welding, sheet metal fabrication, and porcelain enameling.

Challenge Porcelain's first customer was Bastian Blessing, which ordered soda fountain parts, and within a few years the company employed 100 workers. It also supplied porcelain parts to Norge in Muskegon, Leonard [Kelvinator] in Grand Rapids, and Gibson and Ranney in Greenville. Eventually these companies set up their own porcelain facilities, and Challenge started fabricating and enameling signs, bathtubs, sinks, and meat counters. In the late 1930s it began to produce architectural panels for use on gas stations and large commercial buildings.

In 1940 Ringelberg worked with Andrew Johnson, Sales Manager of Hubbard Puffer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to bring that company to Grand Haven as part of Challenge Porcelain. During WW II, restrictions on the use of steel for domestic products reduced production, so that employment fell from over 100 to less than 20. However, the two companies were awarded contracts for manufacturing refrigerators, using lumber and plywood. The porcelain enameling furnaces were used for heat treating and annealing castings. When the war ended, demand for steel products was so great that companies were put on an allotment program. Soon employment at the Challenge building was over 175. In 1949 Harold Ringelberg, Adrian's son, was appointed Vice President and elected to the Board of Directors. Adrian became Chairman of the Board, Jack K. Keating was Vice President, and Cornelia Boomgaard was Secretary. Anton Fosheim's son, Ivan, became Plant Superintendent.

On November 7, 1950 fire raged for seven hours under the floor of the Challenge Porcelain plant. Thirty-six Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Muskegon firefighters fought hidden flames from midnight until 7:30 a.m. The plant was able to continue operations.

In the early 1950s the company designed and re-tooled for the manufacture of porcelain-on-steel bathtubs, sinks, and lavatories. These products were developed for the mobile home industry and

for several years Challenge was the sole supplier of small size plumbing fixtures. Soon full-size fixtures for residential use were introduced. Production of plumbing fixtures rose to 35,000 a year.

Also in the early 1950s the company worked with White Products of Middleville, Michigan, a large manufacturer of water heaters, to develop a technique for coating the inside of the water heater tank with porcelain enamel, a feature called "glass lining." This durable substance increased the life of a water heater from as little as two years to 20 or more. Production soared to about 400 units a day and Challenge was hard pressed to keep up with the demand. In 1955 the company agreed to build a state-of-the art porcelain enameling plant on the White's property. The plant was designed to handle up to 1,000 tanks a day and reached production of 1200 to 1400 a day, working three shifts. The new product was called Vitroglass. Harold Ringelberg's brother Glen, who started with the Grand Haven plant, was manager of the Vitroglass operation. When White Products was sold, the bathtub and sink production was shifted to the local plant, requiring an additional 10,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space.

In 1955 the Challenge Board of Directors elected Harold Ringelberg, President; Adrian Ringelberg, Chairman of the Board; Jack K. Keating, Vice President; Lyle McWilliams, Vice President; Glen Ringelberg, Secretary; and John Walhout, Treasurer.

With facilities for metal stampings, custom fabricating, and porcelain enameling, Challenge Stamping & Porcelain offered a wide variety of services to its customers. Their varied experience and equipment made it possible to manufacture almost any item with a porcelain finish. A report dated May 12, 1962 reported that the Puffer Hubbard firm located at 741 Jackson in Grand Haven was sold to Challenge Stamping & Porcelain. The local firm had purchased all of the stock, but the business continued to operate under the name Puffer Hubbard.

In 1975 Challenge replaced the wood figures used at the Dewey Hill nativity scene at Christmastime with porcelain enameled figures, still in use decades later. About the same time Challenge developed the steel door, made by laminating steel to insulating material. The doors were made in standard sizes, ready to hang. Most of the doors had plain surfaces on which customers could install lights [windows] and other decorative designs. The new doors were popular, and approximately 40,000 of them were produced annually.

The Grand Haven plant was sold to Chicago investors on March 4, 1979. At that time the Challenge Stamping & Porcelain Company at 850 Jackson was the largest industrial business ever established locally by a native of Grand Haven. The new owners were three brothers: John, Robert, and Alan Doede of Chicago. After three years or so of operations, the new owners sold the company by divisions: doors, Puffer Hubbard, plumbing, machinery, and real estate.

On June 13, 1979 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that a complaint named Puffer Hubbard shareholders in an attempt to recover in Federal bankruptcy court nearly \$1.3 million paid to former shareholders during the previous three years. A hearing was set for July 26 on a complaint filed in the Grand Rapids court against about 30 defendants associated with the former Challenge Stamping and Porcelain Company.

Puffer Hubbard had been operating since March under Chapter XI of the Federal Bankruptcy Act, which was designed to allow a company to reorganize. But Puffer Hubbard attorney Jon Muth of Grand Rapids said, "They're not making any money. They may be continuing to lose." Muth said the complaint initiated the pleading for a "complex lawsuit" and he had no way to predict how long it would take. Named as defendants were Harold Ringelberg, former principal shareholder of the company, and John, Robert, and Alan Doede, directors of the former holding company, Security First Bank and Trust of Grand Haven [later Old Kent Bank/Fifth Third], and shareholders, which included Claude and Ruth Van Coevering, John and Beverly Walhout,

Mildred Pierce, and others. The complaint charged that Puffer Hubbard was insolvent when the stock purchase transactions were made in February 1976, and that the transactions left Puffer Hubbard with inadequate capital to continue business. Since March 3, 1976, shareholders had been paid \$1,289,806.09 according to the terms of the stock purchase agreement, the complaint stated.

The plaintiffs, including the company and its receiver Maurice Edleman, alleged that because of fraudulent conveyance of moneys and assets, “. . . shareholders have been greatly enriched at the expense of Puffer Hubbard, its creditors and its employees, who have been damaged to the extent of the moneys paid and assets transferred from Puffer Hubbard to shareholders.” The complaint also charged illegal redemption transaction, illegal dividends, and breach of “fiduciary” responsibility by the directors of the company. Under this count, the plaintiffs charged that the directors “conspired to defraud Puffer Hubbard,” paid “an annual salary to Ringelberg far in excess of the value of his services,” sold or assigned the assets of Puffer Hubbard to fund the illegal purchase of shares of Puffer Hubbard, caused Puffer Hubbard to pay unreasonably and unwarranted travel and entertainment expenses to and for the directors, and failed to make required contributions to the employee pension fund. Ringelberg told the *Grand Haven Tribune*, “I consider the suit unwarranted. It’s a legal matter that will be handled by our attorneys. We’d all like to see the company survive. The only way is to find a company to fund it.” He added. “The court dictates what has to be done.”

Jerry Dickens, who bought the company for \$1 in March, said there were about 10 potential buyers for the company, and he hoped to have a plan to present to bankruptcy court for a purchase within two weeks. The property and buildings had been sold to AP Parts, but Puffer Hubbard would stay at the 850 Jackson location until the end of the year. New sites for the company were being considered in Muskegon, Norton Shores, Ferrysburg, and Grand Haven. “We need a buyer before we can make an offer on property,” Dickens had said.

The company was operating at this time with 39 employees and did not have approval to hire any more for about four weeks. “Production has picked up, and customers have stuck with us.” Dickens said. “But we’re operating at a lower level of efficiency and market penetration, so it’s tough.” Muth said it was too early to tell if the company was going to make it. He said he didn’t anticipate anything would happen at the July 26 court date because only one day had been set for the hearing. “This is the best position Puffer Hubbard can take. It probably won’t be agreed to by any of the defendants,” Muth said. A counter claim filed by the defendants was possible, he added.

The sale of the Puffer Hubbard facilities at 850 Jackson to AP Parts was completed on Wednesday, April 19, 1979, which provided Puffer Hubbard with more money for operations. Puffer Hubbard Products Inc. recalled two additional employees with more people expected to be recalled the following week, according to union president Louis Coon.

The company, formerly known as Challenge Stamping and Porcelain, continued to operate under the judge’s orders under Chapter XI of the Bankruptcy Act. The property was purchased for \$400,000, and AP Parts planned to use the facilities to expand, although plans were not finalized.

### **1930 OVAL APARTMENTS/OVAL INN/BIJ DE ZEE/BLUE WATER INN [1930-present]**

In 1928 construction began on the Oval Apartments, a resort hotel on Harbor Drive [1030 South Harbor], across from the entrance to the State Park at that time. Beginning in 1929 or 1930 Florence and Frank B. Reghel were owners/managers of the business, known then as the Oval Apartments. About 1940 or 1941 the name was changed to the Oval Inn. Later it became known as Bij de Zee, and in 1997 Mike Weavers bought the place, improved it, and changed the name to

the Blue Water Inn. Reghel also had a real estate and insurance business located at 210½ Washington Street in Grand Haven.

**1930 SANITARY DAIRY/MILLERS ICE CREAM CO. [1930-?]**

Albert Miller of Grand Rapids in 1929 purchased Sanitary Dairy from Thomas Ryder. He paid \$80,000 for the business, located at 420 Fulton Street. The dairy, which produced and sold milk products, employed about 15 people. Millers closed in the 1960s. The building was razed in the mid-1990s, long after it had been converted to an apartment complex.

**1930 GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS [1930-present]**

The Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was incorporated in 1930, although the city had had a city light plant since 1896, when it initiated operations. That year a building contract was let to Van Dongen & Groenevelt, a company owned by Johannes Van Dongen and Fred Groenevelt of Grand Haven. The complete cost of the project was \$9,986. By 1911 the electric plant had a net book value of \$25,244. In 1915 the steam engine was replaced by a 500-kilowatt turbine and other additions were made. Two years later an additional 1000-kilowatt turbine and boiler were installed. During the years 1924-1925 a new boiler room was built, a new 1500-kilowatt turbine and boiler was installed, and other major extensions were made, totaling \$110,356. In 1927-1928 additional equipment was installed, consisting of a 500-horsepower boiler and stoker, a Zeolite water system, a complete coal conveyor system, and boiler pumps at a cost of \$54,589.

In 1929 the load had increased to a point where it was necessary to install additional equipment. A committee was appointed to make a study of the plant's future expansion. In 1930 a bid of \$1,200,000 by a private company was rejected at election and the Board of Public Works was created. A new diesel extension was started at a cost of \$217,000. In 1934 a third 1150 horsepower diesel unit was installed and alterations to the building were made at a cost of \$82,000. In 1937 installation of a 2250 horsepower diesel engine and additions to the plant were completed at total cost of approximately \$200,000. Later a new water intake pump house was completed at a cost of approximately \$19,000. In 1938 an additional 100,000-gallon underground oil storage tank was installed, doubling the storage capacity. The year 1962 concluded the first full year's operation of the new Sims 20,000-kilowatt steam electric plant, which was put on line in the fall of 1961. Built at a cost of \$5,000,000, the new plant produced one kilowatt at a cost of 4.86 mils.

**1930 ROSSWAY MFG CO. [1930-1935]**

Established in Spring Lake in April 1930 in the 5,000 sq. ft. building at the site of the Spring Lake Basket Factory on Spring Lake at the foot of Alden Street, Rossway manufactured store fixtures, special furniture, wooden cases for barbers, crates, and trailers for autos. Owned and managed by O. C. Ross, it went out of business in 1935.

**1930 PEEL BROS., INC. [1930-present]**

Brothers Clyde and Earl Peel, who came to Grand Haven from Everett Township, Newaygo County, started Peel Brothers around 1930 as a local cartage business. They provided pickup and delivery for laundry, ice, furniture, and groceries, charging 35 cents per trip. Later they added the City Cab Company, located at 109 North Second Street, where they operated seven vehicles during WW II. They sold the cab business in 1945. At that time they expanded their business to include storage service warehouse at Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Whitehall. In Grand Haven, the brothers purchased the Robbins Dock on the Grand River at the foot of Washington. They also leased the nearby Grand Trunk Warehouse. In addition, the Peels ran the Commerce Lines, offering shipments between Grand Haven and Milwaukee on two small freighters called the *South Wind* and the *North Wind*. This venture ended in 1949. The next year they sold the Robbins



Dock to Harbor Industries and built a new terminal at 431 North Griffin Street. Later they sold adjacent property to the City of Grand Haven to allow extension of Jackson to Griffin. The brothers sold a portion of their business to Ryder Truck Rental in 1982.

**1931 SPRING LAKE BOAT CO. [1931-?]**

Officers of the Spring Lake Boat Company, started in 1931, were James M. Spencer, President; J. Gurnee, Vice President; and M. L. Hughes, Secretary-Treasurer. Other directors included Paul Beardsley and Harold Smedley. The company engaged in the manufacture and storage of boats.

**1931 PIPPEL-PATTERSON CO./DANA CORP. [1931-present]**

John R. Pippel started the Pippel-Patterson Company in 1931 in a little plant on Water Street [Harbor Drive]. Later he moved the business into a building behind the former Presley Drug Store at the southeast corner of Seventh and Washington Streets [700 Washington]. Marvin Patterson joined the business later, giving the firm its hyphenated name. In 1951 it moved to a two-story building at 800 Columbus Street. In its beginning stages it was a job printing business serving the Tri-Cities. It grew to a complete modern printing plant, servicing business and industries throughout the county. In 1967 the business moved to a 145' x 150' one-story building at 1600 Kooiman Street. Located on a six-acre site, the new building cost \$275,000. In February 1969 Pippel-Patterson merged with Dana Printing of Muskegon. Dana acquired the stock of the local firm. Pippel-Patterson continued to be operated as an independent company and Patterson continued as President. Dana Printing Company was founded in 1878 by Edward Dana, and later came under the leadership of Lowell Dana, grandson of the founder.

**1932 VAN PELT METAL PRODUCTS CO./VAN PELT INDUSTRIES/AVPI LTD. [1932-present]**

Arthur Van Pelt I started Van Pelt Products in 1932, primarily for the manufacture of plywood boats. It first started operating in a section of Van Zylén Lumber Company in Grand Haven and later moved to Spring Lake where Stanco Company was located [705 West Savidge]. In 1935 Van Pelt erected the building located at 612 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake. He designed the "crescent-type" sailboat, popular on small lakes. It had a V-shaped bottom and marconi rig. It was considered especially safe for children and inexperienced boatmen. Van Pelt also made boats to be rigged with outboard motors and other flat-bottom boats. In 1936 he sold about 75 boats ranging in price from \$75 to \$175. The company was headed by his son, Art Van Pelt II, after his death, and then by his son's wife, Lorraine. The name was changed to AVPI. The company discontinued producing boats in the mid-1960s.

**1932 AMERICAN SEAT & TANK CO. [1932-1937]**

American Seat & Tank Company in 1932 moved into the building at 1401 Fulton Street formerly occupied by William Heap & Son. The company, managed by G. C. Bulkeley, produced bathroom seats and water tanks. During the depression years business was slow, and in 1937 the building was purchased by the city to make room for the Wood Reproducers Corporation in the hopes of creating more jobs.

**1932 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS [1932-present]**

Grand Haven's Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW] received its charter on January 9, 1932 and designated Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326. On September 3, 1917, Jonker enlisted in Company F in Grand Haven, which merged with Company L of the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry during WWI. He held the rank of supply sergeant. Jonker was killed during the Battle of the Argonne on October 9, 1918. Members moved into their new building at 20 North First Street in 1954. Formerly, the organization offices were at 421 Fulton Street. Its mission is to serve veterans, their families, and the community.

**1933 JOHN ROCKS CARVING CO. [1933-?]**

Located on Sixth Street in the brick building formerly occupied by the Grand Haven Basket Factory, the John Rocks Carving Company used 22,000 sq. ft. of floor space and employed 20 men in the manufacture of chair frames and woodcarvings when it began in 1933.

**1933 KOCH & MORAN CO. [1933-?]**

Started in 1933 by Otto Koch and Charles Moran on North Seventh Street with about 1,400 sq. ft. of floor space, Koch & Moran employed 10 people in the manufacture of electric curling irons.

**1933 DOMESTIC APPLIANCE CORP. [1933-1934]**

Headed by N. E. Walter and R. H. Mate, Domestic Appliance Corporation in 1933 took over part of the Story & Clark Piano building at the corner of First and Columbus Streets. It expected to employ 150 men and produce 100 washing machines per day in three sizes: a large family size, a small apartment size, and a toy washing machine. It produced some samples but fell victim to the depression and never really got started.

**1935 ANDERSON-BOLLING MFG. CO. [1935-?]**

Baltzar Bolling and Carl Eric Anderson formed the Anderson-Bolling Manufacturing Company February 22, 1935. The owners leased a wing of the building owned and used by Challenge Stamping & Porcelain Company. The company produced steel stampings and assemblies. About one month later Anderson-Bolling moved into part of the Great Lakes Cooperage plant, later the site of Oldberg Manufacturing at 620 North Seventh Street. When Oldberg took over the building in 1937, Anderson-Bolling was faced with a new location problem. Challenge Stamping and Porcelain Company purchased a section of the old Challenge Refrigerator plant and offered this to Anderson-Bolling so the company could remain in this area. At this time six men were employed manufacturing stove guards.

In 1941, the firm moved into its new building at 701 East Savidge in Spring Lake with 16,000 sq. ft. of floor space. Five years after the end of World War II new facilities were added to the building, along with new equipment, bringing its total space to 57,250 sq. ft. By then the company's products included rubber mat inserts, stove guards, weather strips, accelerator pedals, and TV cabinets. In September 1957 a fire caused \$50,000 damage, when a degreasing machine in the metal cleaning room burst into flames. In August 1958 Anderson-Bolling developed a "New Wheel" that let each tire roll independently and offered double the normal tire life.

In 1965 Anderson-Bolling purchased Barler, Inc. of Goshen, Indiana. Barler designed and manufactured store fixtures and equipment. In 1969 the company purchased the Denham Manufacturing Company of Big Rapids, makers of zinc die-castings for the automotive and appliance industries. In 1973 the company employed 300 men. In November 1981 the *Grand Haven Tribune* announced that Anderson-Bolling had moved its Indiana operations to Spring Lake. In 1966 the company installed computer equipment to be connected to its plant in Goshen, Indiana. In February 1969, Bolling, Chairman of the Board, died in Florida at the age of 78.

**1935 GRAND HAVEN COOPERAGE CO. [1935-1937]**

Also referred to as Great Lakes Cooperage Company, Grand Haven Cooperage was started in 1935 by William Anderson and Howard Brown who, in November 1934, leased one of the plants formerly occupied by the Challenge Refrigerator Company near the northeast corner of Jackson and Beacon [620 North Seventh]. Operations began in July 1935 making barrels and kegs by precision methods. Officers were Howard Brown, President; William Anderson, Vice President and Superintendent; Leonard J. Gringhuis, Secretary-Treasurer; and Andrew Peterson, Assistant Superintendent. The company employed 50 to 60 people. The company closed when its lease expired in 1937 and was taken up by the Oldberg Manufacturing Company.

**1935 MICHIGAN SANITARY SUPPLY CO./SUPERIOR PLATING & RUST PROOFING CO.**  
[1935-?]

Michigan Sanitary Supply in 1935 moved from Muskegon Heights into the building once occupied by the Builtwell Manufacturing Company at the corner of Park and Liberty Streets [111 North Park] in Spring Lake. Owned by Frank H. Werschem, the business manufactured commercial mop equipment and also engaged in plating and polishing brass fixtures, bearing, and similar items. It employed about 20 people. Werschem died in 1970.

**1935 ASSEM-TECH, INC.** [1935-present]

ASSEM-Tech, a manufacturer of wire harnesses, cable assembly, printed circuit board assemblies, began production in 1935. It was located at 1809 Industrial Park Drive in Grand Haven, with Stephan D. Wilson as President and Gordon Ritter Vice President, prior to its move to 1600 Kooiman in July 1999. That site had been occupied by the Dana Printing Company. At the time of its move, ASSEM-Tech employed 22 workers, plus three or four temporaries.

**1936 WOLVERINE PRESSED STEEL CO.** [1936-1948]

Organized in 1936 by Richard Luce, James Follen, and Morton H. Luce for producing stamped and drawn steel specialties, Wolverine Pressed Steel first occupied space in the old Challenge Refrigerator building at the northeast corner of Seventh [Beacon] and Jackson Streets, and then moved to a building on Franklin Street later occupied by the Decal section of Harbor Industries. Wolverine was purchased in 1940 by Steber Manufacturing Company and in 1945 moved into a brick building that was erected at 725 Taylor Avenue, later occupied by National Products Company. The company employed 25 men and moved to Chicago in 1948 to join its parent plant. James Follen in 1941 started Follen Tool Company.

**1936 EDWARD AND ELIZABETH HOFMA TRUST** [1936-1985]

The Hofma Trust was set up in May 1936, preceding by several months Dr. Edward Hofma's death on December 15 of that year, but almost two years before his wife's passing. The original corpus of the fund was \$100,000. A transfer of \$575,000 to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation on January 9, 1985 met the terms of the Trust, which said that it was to be closed 25 years after the death of Katie Feringa, one of two beneficiaries. Feringa, a Grand Haven resident, died in 1960 at the age of 64 of heart failure. The other beneficiary was Elizabeth Hofma's sister. Among the gifts made by the Foundation were funds to purchase a site for the Musical Fountain, the establishment of Hofma Park in Grand Haven Township, the restoration of De Witt School in Spring Lake Township, and many schools, colleges, and non-profit agencies throughout the area. Martha M. Reghel was one of the charter trustees. Donna Bolt Meeusen later became a trustee.

**1936 VARIETY WOODWORK CO.** [1936-1945]

Variety Woodwork was founded by Cornelius J. Voshell and Cornelius Ver Brugge as early as 1932, and in 1945 its assets and buildings were sold to Grand Haven Novelty. Two early employees were Fred Bol and George Wuennecke [Winicka]. The business was located at 315-407 Davis Street in Grand Haven.

**1936 TRI-CITY OIL CO./CITGO PETROLEUM CORP.** [1936-present]

Carl "Swede" Erickson started the Tri-City Oil Company on June 1, 1936, in partnership with Gerald Tinholt, who owned a Conoco Service Station at the junction of Pine and Ridge Streets in Ferrysburg. The station initially offered D-X gasoline, but before long the owners changed to Cities Service [Citgo] gasoline. Tinholt also worked at Bastian-Blessing. Erickson delivered the company's petroleum products with a pickup truck, carrying 315 gallons at a time and delivering gas or fuel oil to customers in five-gallon cans. Carl II came into his father's business in 1959 and eventually took it over. In 1999 the company continued to operate the service station in

Ferrysburg, and also owned a Citgo outlet at 5 North Beacon in Grand Haven. Jerry Swiftney bought that business and leased the property, starting in October 1981. Young Carl's wife, Mary, and their son Brian ran another Citgo, at 411 Savidge in Spring Lake, which closed around 2009. A second son, Jeff, also entered the business. In 1988 the owners constructed an office building at 524 Third Street in Ferrysburg.

**1937 OLDBERG MFG. CO./AP PARTS [1937-1981]**

In April 1937 the Oldberg Manufacturing Company, a division of Michigan Bumper Corp., located in Grand Haven in the west side of the former Challenge Refrigerator Company building at 620 North Seventh Street [Beacon Boulevard], took up the expired lease of the Grand Haven Cooperage Company. By 1953 the building and its additions provided 153,502 sq. ft. of manufacturing space and employed about 320 hands. Oldberg Manufacturing Company was started by Virgil Oldberg in Detroit in 1909 as one of the first parts manufacturers in America's motor history. Mufflers in those days were heavy shells through which the exhaust gases were retarded and compressed. The early mufflers were practically hand-made, and production was proportionate to the small demand of the infant motor industry. During WWII the company made 75 to 104-millimeter delayed action shell noses. The Oldberg Manufacturing Division of Questor Corp. changed its name to AP Parts, effective January 1, 1974, with headquarters in Toledo, Ohio. Peace time production was devoted exclusively to automobile mufflers. Eric Hoover, who was President of Oldberg, died in 1963. He apparently suffered a heart attack while resting in his garden and was pronounced dead upon arrival at a Pontiac hospital. He was 70 years old and had retired from the Oldberg firm and its presidency in 1958.

In April 1979 AP Parts bought the neighboring Puffer Hubbard, Inc. building, and on September 17, 1980 AP Parts announced it intended to close the plant in 1981.

Closing the plant affected 280 hourly and 57 salaried employees. Because of the current depressed economic situation in the automotive industry, 112 of the employees, most of them hourly, were on layoff or leave at the time. Gil Heyblom, General Manager, said the company's intention to close the plant was based on a number of factors: a declining after-market demand for mufflers; a projected leveling of the original equipment market; a dramatic increase in the service life of mufflers that came about with the catalytic converters and unleaded gasoline, beginning with the 1975 car models; and excess industry capacity.

Questor Corporation failed in its effort to stem the economic woes of its AP Parts Company Division by consolidating its Grand Haven operation with its replacement parts operation in Toledo, Ohio. In December 1981 Questor announced the sale of the entire AP Parts operation, including its remaining Michigan plant in Pinconning, to a group of unidentified owners. The move cost the jobs of hundreds of workers in the Grand Haven area. They were members of Local 784 of the Allied Industrial Workers Union.

**1937 SCREW MACHINE SPECIALTIES CO. [1937-present]**

Screw Machine Specialties was founded in 1937 by Abraham Kieft, Franklin Kieft, and Fred Kieft in a garage on River Road [Waverly Road] with about 400 sq. ft. of floor space. The owners three years later built a new plant on Fulton and Griffin Streets [1251 Fulton]. The company manufactured screw machine products and infant feeding dishes, and normally employed about ten hands. It later moved to the Industrial Park in Grand Haven Township at 14080 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

**1937 MICHIGAN SPECIALTY CO. [1937-?]**

Two men who had been in the awning trade for about 15 years started their own company in 1937 under the name Michigan Awning. Located at Second and Franklin Streets [20 and 22 South Second], it had about 3,200 sq. ft. of floor space with complete facilities for all types of heavy

and light contract sewing. Martin Van Schelven and Albert F. vanden Berg were the owners. The company's building was damaged by fire, water, and smoke in July 1946, the fire originating on the first floor where some sewing machines were stored. Evidently the building was restored, since the company continued to do business from the address on South Second into the late 1950s. The shop also offered sporting goods.

**1937 CAMFIELD MFG. CO. [1937-?]**

Russell W. Camfield established Camfield Manufacturing in Grand Haven on April 1, 1937 for the manufacture of formed plywood serving trays. The business was located at 620 North Seventh Street in the northernmost building owned by the Oldberg Company. During World War II the company converted to military production and manufactured wooden airplane propellers and antenna masts formed from "Compregwood." "Compregwood," a sturdy plywood product of laminated wood that was compressed and impregnated with plastic, could be used in the manufacture of airplane propellers and other items exposed to great stress, including antenna masts. For its wartime production, the firm received the Army-Navy "E" award and two subsequent citations. It purchased the plant at 1301 Fulton Street in 1944 and moved all metal working facilities there. That building originally had been used by Eagle Ottawa for its production of cut sole. In 1946 the company began production of automatic electric toasters. Camfield continued to manufacture wooden serving trays, as well as the "Fluor-O-Shield" shade for fluorescent lamps, laminated wood golf club heads, and various plastic products. When the founder died in August 1947, Larry Meyering was promoted from Vice President to President. In 1953 the company employed about 100 men and women. In July 1954 Camfield was purchased by Titus Haffa of Chicago. In August 1954 the plastic business was taken over by a new corporation, Camfield Fiber Glass Plastics, Inc., which later moved to Zeeland. The Seventh Street plant was sold to Oldberg, and Camfields' manufacturing was concentrated at the Fulton Street building. The *Grand Haven Tribune* on February 24, 1955 announced that Camfield planned to expand and to employ 700 workers and to add new products. On September 8 that year a massive and destructive fire occurred during the second shift. Camfield was producing 1,000 toasters and 400 coffee makers a day at that time, in preparation for the Christmas buying season. The company was back in production within a week in a temporary location. However, a few years later the company was sold to Dormeyer Corporation of Chicago, the equipment was sold at auction, and neighboring business Gardner-Denver bought the building.

**1937 WOOD REPRODUCERS CORP./NATIONAL PLYWOODS, INC. [1937-1940]**

On July 23, 1937 Wood Corporation purchased the Heap building at 1401 Fulton Street from National Plywood, Inc., who had earlier in the year bought it from American Seat & Tank Corp. National Plywood made radio cabinets and card tables and at times employed as many as 200 people. It was a branch of Oxford Varnish Company and in 1940 deeded the building to that company. Apparently Oxford Varnish didn't start business until 1943.

**1938 GRAND HAVEN HARBOR INDUSTRIES/HARBOR INDUSTRIES [1938-present]**

Grand Haven Harbor Industries, which opened in 1938, manufactured merchandise displays, store equipment, showroom displays, and contract wood products. In 1940 the *Maine*, the largest oil tanker ever to come into the port of Grand Haven to that date, arrived with 8,000 barrels of gasoline for the Texas Company [Texaco] tanks, which were maintained by Harbor Industries. The company started in former warehouse space on Harbor Avenue, with offices on the site of the first building erected in Grand Haven by Rix Robinson [One South Harbor]. The *Grand Haven Daily Tribune* reported on August 22, 1949 that the firm's current products were far removed from the business of the original company. The company was organized in 1938 as an industrial real estate development project by C. R. Robinson, H. Wierenga, William L. Stribley, and R. Robinson. Later, in 1944, it was converted to a manufacturing industry under the direction of R.

Wierenga, A. Miller, Fred C. Kuhnle, and William L. Stribley. Products manufactured at that time consisted mainly of packing boxes, furniture, and furniture parts. In 1946, Henry T. Parker, newly arrived in Grand Haven, bought the Ferry depot and buildings on Harbor from Nyle Eggert. In partnership with Norwood Hubbel of Zeeland, he took over Grand Haven Harbor Industries and began the manufacture of “point of purchase” advertising equipment. In 1949, William Wendell Vivian brought his family to Grand Haven and became part owner and vice president of Harbor Industries. In April 1961 a fire at the company was extinguished by the sprinkling system. A defective time switch was blamed for setting a drying machine afire. The same year the name was changed to Harbor Industries, Inc. A year later a 6,800-ton lake freighter rammed into the south end of the Harbor Industries’ dock, causing damage estimated at more than \$10,000. It happened about 1:10 a.m. when the *John A. Kling*, inbound to Construction Aggregates, somehow got off course as she rounded the curve in the channel. In 1963 Harbor Industries purchased the former Arrow Products Plant on U.S. 31 in Grand Haven Township, and in 1967 it purchased the former Challenge Machinery #1 Building downtown at the corner of First and Washington Streets [19 North First Street]. In 1969 Harbor Industries announced plans for expanding the Grand Haven Township plant and in 1972 moved the entire manufacturing operation from its downtown plants to 14170 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. In 2000 a new manufacturing plant was built at Cadillac, Michigan, but corporate headquarters remained in Grand Haven Township. Toward the end of 2001 Harbor employed 115 people in the Grand Haven office, but only 15 or so in the manufacturing facility. The firm maintained its design, engineering, and support staff locally, as well as its warehouse and distribution units.

**1938 BURNSIDE MFG. CO. [1938-1996]**

Burnside in 1938 moved to Spring Lake from Detroit, where Hubert Burnside had started Atlas Crank Company in 1935 [1934]. The firm originally made starter cranks for automobiles. When this type of starter became obsolete the company began making formed steel wire and rod products for automobiles, refrigerators, stoves, and washing machines. In May 1938 Burnside moved to the site of the former Ottawa Manufacturing building at 510 West Liberty Street, and in 1938 it employed 10 persons. It became a corporation in January 1948 under the name Burnside Manufacturing. Officers were Hubert Burnside, President; his son, Robert Burnside, Vice President and Treasurer; Mrs Burnside, Secretary. Later another son, Daniel, was named Vice President and Sales Manager and his wife, Donna, took the position of Secretary. The company moved to Norton Shores in 1996.

**1938 OTTAWA SOIL AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT [1938-present]**

Concerns over soil erosion from natural causes led to the development of the Ottawa Soil and Conservation District in 1938, the first such organization in the northeastern United States. Its purpose was to stabilize drifting sand dunes by planting trees, removing eroding lands from production and planting them with trees, and aiding farmers in maintaining tillable land at productive levels. In 1942 the district was expanded to address the problem of severe water erosion in parts of the county. The district was assisted by the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC]. One of its more visible accomplishments was the stabilization of Dewey Hill.

**1939 PRINS HEATING CO. [1939-present]**

Richard and Arie Prins opened Prins Heating Company at 104 North Third Street in 1939. Members of the Prins family had been in the heating business in Holland since 1908 and later in Muskegon. Two years later the brothers purchased the Crescent movie theatre building [1101-1103 Washington] from the Muskegon Theater Company and moved their heating business to it. The Prinses hired a contractor from Muskegon, who used dynamite to level the slanted concrete floor. The blasting caused a scar that remained visible in the tin ceiling. In 1963 Bruce Cleveland purchased the building. The heating business closed in 1975, but about the same time Richard

Prins's son, Richard II, took over the business and moved it to 13750 172<sup>nd</sup> Street in Grand Haven Township. He renamed the firm Wolverine Heating & Cooling.

**1940 PUFFER HUBBARD REFRIGERATOR CO. [1940-1976]**

Puffer Hubbard was founded in 1896 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and originally manufactured folding delivery boxes. After several changes in its product line, the company in 1921 began to manufacture electric refrigerators for A & P grocery stores and coolers for General Electric. In 1939 the company closed its doors during a bitter strike. Grand Haven's Challenge Stamping and Porcelain Company supplied Puffer Hubbard with porcelain parts for their refrigerator units, meat counters, and water coolers. The company's sales manager, Andrew Johnson, talked to Adrian Ringelberg, President of Challenge Stamping, about reorganizing Puffer Hubbard and moving to Grand Haven. In 1940 the new Puffer Hubbard Refrigerator Company moved to Grand Haven, with Andrew Johnson, President; Robert Johnson, Vice President; and Cornelia Boomgaard, Secretary/Treasurer. Robert was Andrew Johnson's son. Two other sons, Russell and Richard, also held administrative positions. The Johnson and Ringelberg families purchased the company's stock. Puffer Hubbard used the second floor of the Challenge Porcelain building.

Puffer Hubbard firm specialized in designing, manufacturing, and merchandising commercial refrigeration cabinets of all types, such as meat counters, beverage coolers, reach-in refrigerators and freezers. It was located on Jackson Street, along with Challenge Stamping & Porcelain [the former Challenge Corn Planter & Refrigerator building]. During World War II the government restricted the use of steel for domestic products, and Puffer Hubbard had to stop production. The company obtained some government contracts for refrigerators made from plywood for use on military bases. After the war, the company decided to concentrate on the manufacture of reach-in refrigerators and freezers. The units ranged from 24 cubic feet to 90 cubic feet made of porcelain or stainless steel.

When Andrew Johnson died in February 1974, stockholders agreed to sell their shares to Challenge Stamping and become a division of that company. Russell Johnson was elected to the Challenge Board of Directors. Puffer Hubbard added scientific refrigerators and freezers for laboratories and other medical applications. The new line was successful, and within three years it became accounted for approximately one-half of all sales. Challenge was sold in 1976, and the transaction included the Puffer Hubbard Division. The new owners were unfamiliar with commercial refrigeration business and sold Puffer Hubbard to Rheem-Revca, who moved the company to Charlotte, North Carolina. After a long series of legal entanglements, the Grand Haven real estate was sold to AP Auto Parts in 1979. For more detail see Challenge Stamping & Porcelain [1929]. [Thanks to Harold Ringelberg for most of this information.]

**1940 HATTON LEATHER CO. [1940-1942]**

Founded by Julian B. Hatton I and Edmund K. Ellis, Hatton Leather employed up to 70 people finishing leather for the upholstering trade. The owners put up a new building at 743 Park Street, later occupied by Keller Tool Plant #2. In November 1942 the owners of Hatton Leather bought out the Eagle Ottawa Leather Company and combined operations under the Eagle Ottawa name.

**1940 NORTH OTTAWA ROD AND GUN CLUB [1941-present]**

Started in the 1920s as the Grand Haven Gun Club, North Ottawa Rod and Gun was officially recognized as a nonprofit organization in 1941. The club adopted its new name to include fishermen. In 2012 the club had 250 members, who could practice trap and skeet shooting and 3-D archery. North Ottawa Rod and Gun offered its members an outdoor handgun and rifle range and an indoor handgun range.

**1941 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CLUB [1941-2003]**

The first Kiwanis International Club was formed in Detroit on January 21, 1915. On May 13, 1941 38 Grand Haven residents gathered at the Spring Lake Country Club to form a local club. They held their first meetings at Keefer's Restaurant [15 Washington] in Grand Haven, then the Methodist-Episcopal Church on the corner of Washington and Fourth Streets, next at the Church of the Dunes from 1961-1995, and finally at the First Presbyterian Church from then until the club's demise at the end of January 2003. At its peak, the club had as many as 120 members, but slowly declined to a dozen or so at the time it closed. Ed Baas was a member for 58 years, and Char Zoet was the first female member. Among the many projects undertaken by the Kiwanis Club was raising funds for the March of Dimes, ringing Christmas bells for the Salvation Army, and providing grants for local charitable projects.

**1941 FOLLEN TOOL CO./AIM TOOL & DIE [1941-present]**

Started on May 1, 1941 by James H. Follen on the corner of Wallace [Beacon Boulevard] and Woodlawn Streets, Follen Tool Company later the same year moved to a location in the Potter building at 401 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake. It employed about 12 persons and specialized in tools, die jigs, and special machinery, along with various types of metal stampings. In November 1959 the business was taken over by three partners, Maurice Follen, David Hindal, and Jack Hoebeke. In 1984 Ron and Jeanne Duthler purchased Follen Tool Company and on October 1, 1994 the name was changed to AIM Tool & Die. The business then was located at 14324 172<sup>nd</sup> in Grand Haven Township. James Follen was one of the founders and officers of Wolverine Pressed Steel, organized in 1936.

**1941 RAMSET CORP. [1941-1950]**

In 1917 J. A. Ramsey perfected his concept of putting a tempered steel spring ring behind each cast iron ring. The idea was to stop the piston rocking and keep the springiness in the cast iron. The fundamental principle behind this idea was just as important later as it was then. In 1919 Ramsey started Ramco in St. Louis as a small manufacturing business with very limited capital, located in a single room on the second floor of a store. The company employed one secretary. At first the firm had only two hand inner ring machines and the owner did the producing and selling himself. In June 1941 Ramco purchased the assets of the National Piston Ring Company in Fruitport and organized the Ramset Corp. for the purpose of increasing the size of the facilities for the manufacture of automotive piston rings.

In March 1942, due to the tremendous demand for aircraft piston rings, it was decided to convert the Fruitport plant in co-operation with the war effort. The plant was converted as rapidly as possible so that in August 1942 it was completed and the plant was dedicated completely to aircraft. During the manufacturing of aircraft rings, the company reached a peak of 262 employees. The Ramset Corp. had two additional plants at Toronto, Canada and Sullivan, Missouri. In 1950 Thompson Products purchased the company.

**1942 WELDED PRODUCTS CO./SPECTRA PRODUCTS [1942-2002]**

James Scott and Duane Brady started Welded Products in Spring Lake on May 1, 1942 and later moved the business to 216 North Seventh Street in Grand Haven. Jerry Weavers I of Grand Haven also was a principal in the business. All three men had been employees of Bastian Blessing. By 1948 the firm was relocated again, this time to 335 North Griffin in Grand Haven. In 1969 the founders sold the company to Krug International of Dayton, Ohio. From that time to 1973 it was known as Technology Welded Products, and then it became Spectra Products in 1985. It supplied metal and wood products to the office furniture industry. Owners planned to close Spectra permanently in February 2002, affecting about 125 employees. Duane Brady founded Kip Equipment in 1959.

**1942 GORDON LAUGHEAD CO. [1942-1971]**



Started April 13, 1942 by Gordon Laughead at 122 Washington Street, the Laughead Company manufactured spinet pianos and aeronautic toys. It started with two employees. Sometime after 1957 Laughead moved his piano factory to the northwest corner of Elliott and Seventh Streets [633 Elliott]. In 1969 75-year-old owner, founder, and President of the company, was fatally stricken with a heart attack. In 1971 the business was purchased by the Northside Music Company of Lafayette, Indiana.

**1943 CEDAR KRAFT CO. [1943-?]**

Started in September 1943 by Dick Vander Kolk at his home, located at 948 Pennoyer Avenue, Cedar Kraft made electric basketball scoreboards and 110-volt horns. In the mid-1950s the scoreboard sold for \$132.50 and the horn for \$17.50. The same advertisement noted that “hundreds” of the scoreboard had been put into service since 1939, indicating an earlier starting date for the company. Vander Kolk, a biology teacher at Grand Haven High School, died in April 1983.

**1943 GRAND HAVEN NOVELTY CO. [1943-1950]**

Started in 1943 as a partnership by Martin Van Schelven and Lewis Hodges in a small building behind Grand Haven State Bank [Old Kent/Fifth Third], in 1944 Grand Haven Novelty purchased the assets of the Gerrit P. Van Lopik Company, then located in the 600 block of Fulton Street. In 1945 the partnership was dissolved and the business incorporated under Van Schelven’s direction, who at the same time purchased the buildings and equipment of Variety Woodworks at 407 Davis Street. The building was destroyed by fire January 21, 1948. The owners then purchased a site at 803 Taylor Avenue and erected a new building that was ready for operations in July. The business was sold in January 1950 to Arnold E. Smith, who changed the company’s name to Wolverine Table. The Wolverine Table plant suffered a loss of \$90,000 in a morning blaze. The fire put 28 to 30 persons employed at the factory out of work. A temporary office was set up by Smith at Eagle Ottawa Leather Company.

**1943 OXFORD VARNISH CO. [1943-1949]**

Started in 1943 in the Heap Building at 1401 Fulton Street in Grand Haven, having received the deed from a branch company called Wood Reproducers in March 1940, Oxford Varnish moved to the Challenge Machinery Plant #1 Building at 19 North First in 1946. Oxford Varnish was a planing mill. Godfrey Pufal had charge of operations until the plant moved out of that building in January 1949.

**1944 NATIONAL PRODUCTS CO./PRECISION METAL CO. [1944-present]**

Owned by Nyle Eggert, who moved the Muskegon operation to Grand Haven in June 1944, the National Products Company purchased the former Hatton Leather building at 743 Park and manufactured display racks and store fixtures. In 1946 the name was changed to Precision Metal Company, specializing in sheet metal items, steel stampings, and screw machine products. It employed 58 people. The next year the company purchased a building at 725 Taylor from Wolverine Pressed Steel Company. On October 9, 1962 a \$15,000 fire hit the plant on Taylor, gutting the paint department. The *Grand Haven Tribune* on January 3, 1966 reported that Nyle A. Eggert, the owner, Dick Eggert, Nyle’s son, and the son’s fiancée, ‘Jeri’ Petretti, died in a plane crash. They were coming back to Grand Haven after spending the holidays at Fort Lauderdale and had planned to arrive by mid-Sunday afternoon at Grand Haven Airport. After the accident, Nyle’s other son, Paul, took over management of the firm, then located at 725 Taylor. Paul’s wife, Valerie, worked with him and after he moved away, she took over management of the firm. The company started out manufacturing all-steel display racks for automotive, electrical and food displays. Its store fixtures and merchandising displays were used by many nationally known firms, including Goodyear Rubber, General Electric, Wooster Brush, American Greeting Cards,

Sherwin-Williams, and Glidden Company. In addition to the main plant located on Taylor, the firm owned the Caf-o-Lite division on Savidge Street in Spring Lake where it produced the paneling and tops used in the counter units. When National Products moved to the Taylor Street address in 1949, the company employed 25 people in its 14,000 sq. ft. of floor space. Additions to its facilities included 10,400 sq. ft. to be used for painting and storage. By 1966 the plant had 34,660 sq. ft. of floor space for its 75 employees.

**1945 ZELENKA NURSERY [1945-present]**

John Zelenka founded Zelenka Nursery in Grand Haven Township in 1945. The business flourished for several decades. In 2000 the Zelenka family sold its interests to Franklin Street Equity Partners, an investment group, for \$58 million. By August of 2003 the company was near bankruptcy, and was sold two months later to Judkins Nursery, Inc., of Smithville, Tennessee, with 63-year-old Berry Judkins, President. At its peak, Zelenka Nursery owned 2700 acres in Grand Haven and surrounding townships. Rich Brolick was President of the company for much of the time.

**1945 ACE MFG. CO./ACEMCO [1945-present]**

Ace Manufacturing was started by Ed Zenco and Carl V. La Rue in a former filling station at 200 South Harbor Street in 1945. Warner Johnson joined the partnership six months later. In 1946 the owners constructed a new building at 401 North Griffin Street. On July 23, 1947, the business was taken over by Arnold Fredrickson and Vincent J. Giangrande. The business started as a die shop with 2,800 sq. ft of manufacturing space and five or six employees. Among its local clients were Anderson Bolling of Spring Lake and Oldberg Manufacturing of Grand Haven. In the early 1950s Ace switched to the manufacture of metal stampings and grew to 27,000 sq. ft. In 1974 Jeffrey and Jaime Giangrande purchased the business from their father. The *Grand Haven Tribune* reported on December 16, 1976 that Ace planned to build a new 36,000 sq. ft. factory at the industrial park, at the intersection of Comstock and 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue [16750 Comstock]. After its move Ace became ACEMCO. In 1999 the company built and moved into a 98,000 sq. ft. facility in Norton Shores.

**1945 GRAND OFFICE SUPPLY CO. [1945-@1960]**

Grand Office Supply, which started in 1945, moved from its original Spring Lake location to a building erected in 1947 with 6,000 sq. ft. of floor space. The store had nine employees. It was started as a partnership between Ralph J. Buit II and Gerry J. Botbyl. The company handled a complete line of products for the office, including furniture and equipment. By the mid-1950s Grand Office was located on South Beechtree in Grand Haven. Botbyl died in 1959.

**1946 CUSTOM WOODWORKING CO. [1946-1953]**

Started on June 1, 1946 by owner Ralph Thomas, Custom Woodworking was located just south of Grand Haven off old U.S. 31 [168<sup>th</sup> Avenue]. The company made novelty furniture, amplifiers, and speaker cases. It moved to Reed City in August 1953.

**1946 ELECTRIC ASSEMBLIES, INC. [1946-1982]**

Formed by Adrian Devos in January 1945 and located on an upper floor at 224 Washington Street, Electrical Assemblies, Inc., started production in 1946 with 1,000 sq. ft. of floor space and six employees. As the business grew it was finally necessary to expand the manufacturing facilities, and in January 1949 the company moved to a new building at 411 North Griffin Street. The company produced cord sets, electrical assemblies, harnesses, and transformers. In December 1982 Electrical Assemblies moved operations to Zeeland.

**1946 EVANS PRODUCTS CO. [1946-1949]**

Evans Products purchased the Heap building at 1401 Fulton from Oxford Varnish in June 1946. Evans started with 45 employees and employed as many as 125 in the manufacture of molded plywood radio cabinets and furniture. The company ceased operations in February 1949 and the following month sold the equipment and manufacturing rights to the Herman Miller Furniture Company of Zeeland. This building was sold in September 1950 to Harjer-Michigan, Ltd.

**1946 MICHIGAN PLASTIC PRODUCTS, INC.** [1946-present]

Founded in March 1946 by Miller Sherwood for the manufacture of custom-molded thermoplastic products, Michigan Plastics Products was first located in the former Durant-Star-Flint automobile garage on Franklin Street [12 Franklin]. The company built a new plant at 715 Robbins Road in 1951. In 1946 the company specialized in custom molding of thermoplastic materials, such as styrene, Lucite and Plexiglas. Some of the first items produced were cream separators, curtain shade pulls, and picture frames. Soon the company branched into the refrigerator and automotive fields, producing such parts as escutcheons, handles, and knobs. In 1973 the company built a new plant at 1500 South Beechtree Street on a 20-acre site. The plant itself consisted of a Star steel building 450' by 290' with a manufacturing area of 130,500 square feet. Michigan Plastic Products, Inc. operated as a Division of the JSJ Corporation, formed by combining with four other locally based companies: Grand Haven Brass Foundry, Grand Haven Stamped Products, Dake Corp., and Carlon Meter Company. In 1997 Michigan Plastics had yearly sales of nearly \$20 million. The Robbins Road plant was later occupied by Carlon Meter Company, and also housed the JSJ administrative offices.

**1946 MILLER-SMITH MFG. CO.** [1946-present]

Formed as a partnership by John Miller II and George C. Smith in February 1946, Miller-Smith specialized in electroplating cadmium, zinc, copper, nickel, and chrome. It was located at 601 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake. While the company started as a two-man plant back in 1946 on a "very thin shoestring," it rapidly developed into a fully automatic plant with the latest equipment in electroplating, buffing, and polishing. The company expanded a number of times in order to keep up with increasing business. Miller-Smith installed the second fully automatic electroplating machine developed by Frederic B. Stevens Inc., of Detroit. The "Little Steve" machine could plate articles 18 inches long, six inches wide, and 8 inches thick, at the rate of 105,000 pieces a day. In 1957 the company expanded for the fifth time since it started.

**1946 OTTAWA LABORATORIES** [1946-1948]

Started by John Hyde and Edward A. Schewe in 1946, Ottawa Laboratories employed six people producing DDT-based insecticides. Its offices were located in the Vander Zalm Building at 208 Washington, and its laboratories were in a building on Taylor Street, near the north-south Pere Marquette railroad tracks. Financial difficulties forced the business to close two years after opening.

**1946 PRECISION METAL CO.** [1946-1947]

See National Products [1944].

**1946 TICKNER PRODUCTS/TICKNER INDUSTRIES** [1946-1948]

In 1946 the Tickner Company came to Grand Haven from Grand Rapids with Edmund Tickner as General Manager. It employed about 60 men for the production of radio cabinets. The company at first was located in Challenge Machinery Plant #1, but later moved to 17771 West Spring Lake Road in Spring Lake Township. The company apparently closed shortly after Tickner's death in November 1970. Tickner also owned Lakeview Manufacturing, which he started in 1952.

**1946 WEST SPRING LAKE WELDING CO.** [1946-?]

Located on West Spring Lake Road [RR#1] in Spring Lake, West Spring Lake Welding was formed in 1946 with Robert B. Rader, Manager. It manufactured and fabricated welded products, performed tank plating, bench and assembly work, and welded production runs.

**1946 MANTING EQUIPMENT CO. [1946-present]**

Maynard Manting opened the doors of the Manting Equipment Company in 1946 at 119 South Fourth Street in Grand Haven. The company was a distributor for Bastian Bless store display fixtures and supplies for West Michigan restaurants. When the founder died in 1956 his sons, Peter G. and Maynard Manting II, continued operations. In 1981 Manting Equipment moved to 849 Park Street.

**1946 NOREN PATTERN & MFG. CO./A-CMI [1946-present]**

Located on Apple Drive in Fruitport, Noren Pattern produced wood and metal patterns, core boxes, and pattern engineering. George, Herbert, and Harold Noren started the company. It was housed in an 1,800 square foot Quonset hut and a foundry was added four years later. In the 1960s the manufacturing floor space was expanded to 42,850 feet. Ray Witt bought Noren and combined it with Cast Metal Industries. In 1997 the company employed 175 people.

**1946 NORTH SHORE MACHINE WORKS [1946-present]**

Started by Claude Olthoff in January 1946 North Shore Machine Works began as a job shop for screw machine products and developed into a variety of contract machined parts. Having had twelve years' screw machine experience at Keller Tool, Olthoff decided to try going into business on his own. Starting out with one hand screw machine in 1947, the firm continued to add to its equipment until there were five hand and automatic screw machines, a centerless grinder, milling machine, and facilities for drilling and welding services. In June 1949 Wayne Rossink moved his welding service in with the North Shore Machine Works, enabling the company to offer a more diversified services including portable and productive welding. Products turned out at North Shore Machine Works were used in automatic pin-setting equipment, railroad repair equipment, gas pumps, office equipment, hot water heaters, and some aircraft components. Officers included Claude Olthoff, President, George Verduin, Vice President and Secretary, and William Rescorla, Treasurer, who was a Grand Rapids resident. In January 1961 an addition was completed, increasing the total floor space to 7,000 sq. ft. A fire in October 1961 destroyed the old buildings on Beach Road in Ferrysburg and much of the new addition. At that time it was decided go ahead with a rebuilding program and improve the old sections to conform to the addition. More recently the business was located at 595 Second Street in Ferrysburg.

**1946 RYCENGA LUMBER CO. [1946-present]**

There was no precise year to mark the beginning of the Rycenga enterprises. As early as 1932 Chuck Rycenga, Senior, and his sons Chuck, Junior, and Louis were cutting cord wood for resale. Chuck [and, much earlier, his grandfather, Jacob] had worked for Van Zylens Lumber, and Louis had had five years' experience with rough-cut timber. However, after World War II they began selling building supplies from the barn on the family farm at 720 South Griffin Street in Grand Haven and were one of the first companies to offer Andersen Window Walls. Within a few years, the Company was selling garage kits and pre-cut homes. Rycenga Lumber Company moved its warehouse and office to 1051 Jackson Street in Grand Haven in 1949. The company moved east into a new building at 1053 Jackson about 1955 and sold the old property to Ottawa Electric. In 1979 Rycenga Homes split away from the parent company and opened its own facility at 17127 Hickory Street in Spring Lake Township. Rycenga housing developments included Dermshire Forest, North and South Holiday Hills, and Country Club Woods in Spring Lake. Not long after the inauguration of the homes division, Rycenga Real Estate opened with offices adjacent to the lumberyard.

**1946 GRAND HAVEN FURNITURE/PORENTA'S GRAND HAVEN FURNITURE [1946-2008]**

In 1946 brothers Joe, Stan, and John Porenta began the Grand Haven Furniture Store in a small building at 111 North Third Street. The brothers later purchased Olaf Johnson's Antique Store, the neighbor to the north and later the site of a parking lot. In 1965 a second story was added to the building, and in 1967 and 1974 other additions were made. At one time the store advertised "*Electrical Appliances and Kalamazoo Heating Systems*," but eventually appliances were dropped and the company concentrated solely on furniture and bedding. In 1978 Jim Porenta, Joe's son, and Dave Dornbos purchased the business and real estate and officially changed the name to Porenta's Grand Haven Furniture. By 1984 the store encompassed 21,000 square feet. Porenta's closed permanently in 2008.

**1946 NOBLE CO. [1946-present]**

Benjamin L. Lowell started the Noble Company in 1946. In February 1967 the Company purchased a building at 614 Monroe for the manufacture of items for the tile, plumbing, heating, and do-it-yourself market. His son, Ben Tom Lowell, and other family members worked in the business, as well. Noble had another facility in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In the fall of 2003, the company's Grand Haven building was razed to become part of the GrandWater commercial development.

**1947 PRONTO PUP [1947-present]**

The 7' by 9' Pronto Pup stand was a seasonal tourist attraction beginning in 1947, long preceding the waterfront development that marked the 1970s and 1980s. Owner Chuck Nelson started the business with his uncle, John Montgomery, a Spring Lake doctor. Nelson, then 18 years old and a recent graduate of Grand Haven High School, ran the stand until his uncle left the area a few years later, and then he took over complete ownership and management, opening each summer season thereafter.

**1947 GRAND HAVEN SCREW PRODUCTS [1947-present]**

Started as a partnership with Homer Benedict and Lester Kammeraad, Grand Haven Screw Products made precision metal turnings. The founders also were the company's only employees at the start. Without the promise of a single order, the partners on June 6, 1947 began themselves to construct a 28' x 40' foot concrete building at 421 North Griffins. After obtaining equipment they were ready for business, and the first order came from the Aero Manufacturing and Machining Company of Muskegon Heights. With three turret lathes, one engine lathe, and a drill press, the owners began production. Screw Products specialized in precision turnings using a variety of materials. In performing contract machining for other local and out-state industries, the company earned the reputation of doing unusual precision turnings in steel, copper, plastic, aluminum, Bakelite, fiber, and brass. The two men developed an efficient combination, with Benedict bringing the orders in and Kammeraad pushing them out to customer satisfaction. In 1953 the business employed nine men. Kammeraad died at the age of 53 in September 1962, and Benedict died after a short illness in January 1976. Kamenga Manufacturing Company of Grand Rapids purchased the company.

**1947 SURE-LINE SCREW PRODUCTS [1947-1949]**

In 1947 Martin Stuit Grand Haven moved Sure-Line Screw Products from Muskegon to Grand Haven, locating his business in part of Keller #2 plant at 734 Park Avenue. It produced various types of metal turnings and returned to Muskegon in 1949.

**1947 ASP & MFG. CO./ B & B ENGINEERING/PAKIT CORP. [1947-present]**

Organized on January 2, 1947 by Howard and Robert Broersma to include various types of industrial engineering, ASP & Manufacturing started in a building on Washington Street. Howard

was President and Robert was Vice President. In 1948 the company moved to the former Stanco building at 705 West Savidge in Spring Lake and set up a three-way partnership with Paul Droppers, which combined ASP & Manufacturing Company with B & B, which was begun in 1948 by Droppers. Droppers was named Secretary-Treasurer after the merger. ASP specialized in high production plating of small parts plating through the use of automatic basket type plating machines. In April 1953 it purchased the former Kiddie Kover building at 702 North Sixth Street. B & B Engineering designed productive tooling, special automated machinery, and served as consultant in product design and development. In September 1970 the name was changed to B & B Design, Inc. The three partners at B & B Engineering pooled their engineering resources and invented a method of packing peat moss around the roots at a pre-determined pressure, so that plants stayed healthy almost indefinitely at temperatures of 35 to 40 degrees. Minimum standards required packaging to maintain healthy plants at least for six weeks and up to three months in stores. In 1982 the business moved to 14600 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township.

**1947 CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RAILWAY CO. [1947-1987]**

The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company bought the Pere Marquette Railroad in 1947. After a series of internal changes, the name was changed in 1987 to the CSX Corporation. Passenger service to Grand Haven ended in 1971 and freight service was substantially reduced.

**1948 TRI-CITIES FUEL & SUPPLY/TRI-CITIES CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY/TOPPER CONSTRUCTION [1948-present]**

Tri-Cities Fuel & Supply was started as a partnership between William J. Wipperfurth I and John W. Van Anrooy in 1948. Located initially on Oak Street in Ferrysburg and then at 201 Elm, in 1966 the company's offices were moved to the former Verplank Coal and Dock site at 925 West Savidge. Another building was put up to house C-Way Construction, a subsidiary of the firm. Wipperfurth bought out his partner in 1952 and changed the company name to Tri-Cities Construction & Supply in 1959. The firm became a franchised dealer for Stran-Steel in 1958. Wipperfurth's son, William II, became President of Tupper Construction, which started in 1979. It was re-located to 746 Woodlawn in Grand Haven.

**1948 GRAND TRANSFORMERS [1948-present]**

Begun by Kenneth C. Retzlaff when he was 40 years old, Maynard Heyboer I, and O. C. Retzlaff, Grand Transformers originally was the transformer division of Electrical Assemblies in the Oakes building at 232-234 Washington Street. The company started with six employees and experienced considerable growth over the years. It manufactured inductive components, frequently used in computers, scientific instruments, and factory automation. Retzlaff's son Gerald became Chief Executive Officer, and another son, Gregory, was President. In 1954 the owners purchased and moved to a building in the Industrial Park at the southeast corner of Marion and Beechtree Streets [1500 Marion]. On August 8, 1987 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that a three-alarm fire, which apparently began in a malfunctioning furnace, swept through a portion of Grand Haven Transformers causing an estimated \$60,000 in damage. By 1998 the company had 150 employees.

**1948 OTTAWA WOODCRAFT [1948-?]**

Started in 1948 by Forrest S. Thompson and Lewis Hodges, Ottawa Woodcraft produced woodturnings, custom cabinet making, and light woodworking, including wooden salad or soup bowls. Ottawa Woodcraft initially was located at 626 Madison Street in one of the former Grand Haven Basket Factory buildings. Around the mid-1950s the company moved to a new building at 17281 Van Wagoner in Spring Lake Township and remained there until at least 1960.

**1948 SUPREME MACHINED PRODUCTS CO. [1948-present]**

Started in a garage at 206 South Lake Avenue in Spring Lake in 1948 by Wallace H. Olson, George V. Yedinak, William P. Ferm, and Michael and Bruno Grzyb, Supreme Machined Products later moved to a small building at 540 Oak Street in Ferrysburg. The company manufactured Tri-Flo Air Nozzles and did sub-contracting for screw machine work, particularly for the automotive and airline industries. Officers were Bruno “Whitey” Grzyb, his brother Michael, and Wallace Olson, who became President when Whitey retired in 1978. Later the plant was moved to 18686 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Spring Lake Township. The company distributed its products mainly in the United States, but some of it was delivered overseas. Greg Olson, Wallace Olson’s son, later became company President.

**1949 ROYAL OAK/PINE-TIQUE FURNITURE, INC. [1949-?]**

Arriving from Royal Oak in February 1949 as the Royal Oak Industries, the firm manufactured contractors’ and masons’ levels. It adopted the name Pine-Tique in 1953 and began the production of pine furniture reproductions and originals. It was located at 201 South Harbor, on the Channel, next to the site of “The Barn” roller skating rink, which had burned down a few years previously. Pine-Tique went out of business in the 1960s.

**1949 HIERHOLZER MACHINE CO. [1949-?]**

Located at 120 Elliott Street in Grand Haven, Hierholzer Machine started in 1949 to do general machine work for maintenance and machine repair. William K. Hierholzer was the owner.

**1949 INDUSTRIAL WELDERS & FABRICATORS [1949-?]**

In 1949 George G. Austgen started Auto Radiator & Welding Service and Industrial Welders & Fabricators at 307 Pine Street in Ferrysburg. When the welding businesses closed in the early 1960s, George opened Austgen Import Service. His sons Michael and George II worked with him. Import Service was out of business within a few years.

**1949 FORGED REAMER CO. [1949-1956]**

The original officers of Forged Reamer Company were Harley Harrison La Vercombe, President, Robert Heaslip, Vice President, J. T. Sprite, Secretary, and Mable Huff La Vercombe, Treasurer. It started in business at the southeast corner of Savidge and Lake Streets [606 Savidge] in Spring Lake in January 1949 and employed three people with a floor space of 1,250 sq. ft. The company produced re-sizing reamers and other cutting tools. The business was sold in 1956 to Ray Johnson.

**1950 HARJER-MICHIGAN LTD. [1950-1952]**

Harjer-Michigan in 1950 purchased the former Evans Products building at 1401 Fulton with the intent of manufacturing bedroom suites, but it never got into production and the building was sold to Challenge Machinery in September 1952.

**1950 MILLER INDUSTRIES/R.A. MILLER ELECTRONICS CORP. [1950-present]**

Later located on West Savidge Street in Spring Lake, the R. A. Miller Company started in 1950 in the basement of the founder’s home at 213 Grand. Started by Robert and Ruth Miller, the business employed three full-time men, two part-time men, and six part-time women. It made radar equipment, armament equipment, precision assembly, and novelties. It moved to 1525 Marion in 1956. The company was very successful in getting government contracts for radar antennas. In 1976 R. A. Miller Industries moved into a new building at 14500 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Grand Haven Airpark. At that time they employed 50 people. Five years later the firm had grown to 100 people. Miller antennae could be found at virtually every airport in the world and on almost all U.S. military planes and ships.

**1950 WOLVERINE TABLE CO. [1950-1955]**

In January 1950 Arnold E. Smith purchased Grand Haven Novelty at 803 Taylor and changed the company's name to Wolverine Table Company, a company that had been located at 725 Taylor until 1946. In 1955 Wolverine Table suffered a loss of \$90,000 in a morning blaze. The fire put 28 to 30 persons employed at the factory out of work. A temporary office was set up by Smith at Eagle Ottawa Leather Company, but the company closed soon afterward.

**1950 TWIN OAKS TREE FARM [1950-?]**

With guidance from soil conservation experts at Michigan State University, Dorothy Deremo in 1947 planted quantities of Christmas trees in her sandy back yard in Section 35 [North] of Grand Haven Township, where her 133-acre farm was located. Three years later she formed Twin Oaks Christmas Tree Farm, with Cliff Lyons and Howard De Gram as partners. Eventually Twin Oaks owned 600 to 700 acres in Ottawa, Muskegon, and Oceana Counties and sold about 20,000 trees a year. Dorothy passed away in 1997.

**1951 FLEETWOOD FURNITURE CORP. [1951-?]**

Organized in June 1951 by Norwood Hubbell, Henry T. Parker, William Wendell Vivian, and John Wierenga, Fleetwood Furniture Company specialized in the manufacture of juvenile "Swing-Line" furniture. It started manufacturing at 1 South Harbor in the facilities of Grand Haven Harbor Industries, but soon moved to 8 North Seventh Street. Henry Glass designed the Swingline furniture series in the early 1950s for use in children's bedrooms. Bright colors were used to help assist in organization and all edges of the cabinets were constructed with rounded corners and hinges to prevent injury. Swingline furniture was in production for a short time.

**1951 NIDEL MFG. CO. [1951-1979]**

Started in 1951 by Joseph C. Woodford at 604 East Savidge Street in Spring Lake, Nidel produced the "Gloss Sweep" an innovative broom. At its beginning the company employed one full-time and one part-time person. It moved to 216 North Seventh in Grand Haven and by the mid-1970s was located at 14080 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township. The company apparently closed after Woodford's death in 1979.

**1951 GRAND HAVEN PLASTICS CO. [1951-present]**

Formed in December 1951 Grand Haven Plastics started operations in part of the former Dake Corporation building at 633 Monroe and then moved to a new plant at 1540 Marion Street. The company did compression molding of reinforced plastics products. Officers were Alvin E. Jacobson II, President; Milford Morse, Vice President and General Manager; and David Jacobson, Secretary-Treasurer. On September 29, 1964 Sackner Products of Grand Rapids purchased Grand Haven Plastics and on May 30, 1966 Sackner Products was sold to Polyply. Polyply continued production at 1540 Marion Street. In 1983 Alan Chapel restarted Grand Haven Plastics in an abandoned factory with a few used machines. The business flourished as a maker of custom molder and finisher of plastic parts for the electronic, construction, health care, and automotive industries, among others. In 1988 Chapel moved the company to 1425 Aerial View Drive, and in 2002 the company completed a substantial addition to its plant. In 2003 Chapel remained as President, Karl Chapel, Vice President and General Manager, Bob Chapel, Account Quality Manager, and Tammy Christiansen, Human Resource Manager. Grand Haven Plastics advertised itself as a "well-lit company efficiently operating 40 injection molding machines three shifts a day, with molding capabilities ranging from 33 tons to 1800 tons.

**1952 ROBBINS ROAD HARDWARE [1952-2014]**

Jack Tysman's Robbins Road Hardware started at 984 Robbins Road in 1952. He opened with just hardware and plumbing supplies, and later added mowers, chain saws, snow throwers, electric supplies, pumps, and other items. In 1972 Jack's son Bill took over the business.



**1952 KENT PRODUCTS, INC. [1952-?]**

Organized in August 1952 at 427 North Griffin Street in Grand Haven, Kent Products began production in January 1953 with six employees occupying 3,750 sq. ft. of floor space in the manufacture of automotive ashtrays, trim parts, accessories, and stampings for the automotive and other industries. During 1953 the company leased additional space in Challenge Machinery Plant #3 at 1401 Fulton and added assemblies and specialized industrial metal painting to their line. Officers were William E. Woodworth, President, J. E. Eckenrode II, Vice President, C. J. Riddering, Secretary, and Lewis Overeiner, Treasurer. On March 9, 1963 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that Woodworth died at age 59 after suffering a lingering illness. By the mid-1970s Lawson R. Smith of Lake Odessa was President, James F. Patton was Vice President and John J. Smith of Jackson, Michigan was Secretary-Treasurer. While ashtrays remained a large part of the business, the company developed a greater diversification of automotive parts, including radio speaker grills, seal latches, and automotive hardware items in painted and plated finishes. The company had manufacturing facilities to make complete assemblies as well as stampings. Welding and riveting machines were used in conjunction with other hand operations to make various assemblies.

**1952 METAL STAMPING PRODUCTS [1952-?]**

Fred King started metal Stamping Products in 1952 at 530 Elm Street in Ferrysburg. On May 1, 1956 Henry J. Freeze left Camfields in Muskegon and formed a partnership with Jerry Maring to purchase the building and equipment of King's business. After the sale, Fred King formed King Tool & Die and moved to Marion Street in Grand Haven. Maring was President and Freeze was Secretary-Treasurer of the firm. They started out with five employees in a building having 5,000 sq. ft. of floor space, but soon expanded Metal Stamping Products to 19 employees. The company was a service-type organization performing fabricating, stamping, welding, machining, and assembly operations for local and out-state industries. As a job shop its products were varied, depending upon customer requirements. In 1978 fire completely gutted a portion of the plant, but the factory was back in business within a few days. Six weeks later a second blaze hit the plant, and arson was suspected.

**1952 WELDON SERVICES [1952-?]**

Started in 1952 by Paul Koch at 520 Elm Street in Ferrysburg, Weldon Service manufactured high production precision stampings, tool and die work, jigs, fixtures, and samples.

**1952 LAKEVIEW MFG. CO. [1952-?]**

Started by Edmund Tickner in 1952, Lakeview Manufacturing produced portable iceboats. The business started out as a hobby and turned into a sideline. Tickner also started Tickner Industries in 1946. He lived at 16932 De Witt in Spring Lake.

**1953 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF FERRYSBURG/FERRYSBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH [1953-present]**

In 1953 members of the Spring Lake Christian Reformed Church who lived in Ferrysburg decided it was time to form their own congregation. The primary leaders for the move were Ferrysburg residents Gerald Rosema and Jacob Kuiper. The congregation first met at 408 Fifth Street in Ferrysburg, which later became the site of Ferrysburg City Hall. The church in 1973 moved into a new building at 17785 Mohawk, where it remained into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as Ferrysburg Community Church. [*Tribune* article "Ferrysburg Church Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup>," September 6, 2003.]

**1953 THOMPSON PRODUCTS, INC. [1953-?]**

The owners of Thompson Products purchased the Ramset Corporation in 1950, including the plant in Fruitport. After extensive remodeling the company began operations in the summer of 1953 to manufacture ball joints for automotive front wheel suspensions.

**1953 AUTOMATIC STEEL PRODUCTS/AUTOMATIC SPRING PRODUCTS, INC. [1953-present]**

In January 1953 Ajax Tool and Die of Muskegon moved to Grand Haven and occupied the former Wolverine Table Company building at 803 Taylor Avenue. Automatic Steel Products hired 15 employees to make parts for vertical Venetian blinds, spring and steel stampings, flat and coiled springs, wire forms, and roll forming. Officers were Ralph Poe, Foster D. Poe, and Wencel Milanowski, with Werner Kullack, General Manager. In 1962 the company changed its name to Automatic Spring Products Corp.

In 1966 Kullack, then Vice President of Automatic Spring, died after suffering a long illness. He was in the spring manufacturing business for 37 years, coming to Grand Haven from Chicago where he had been with Associated Spring for many years. Nine years later Poe died at 77 years of age. Darrell Moreland, one of the early employees of the company, rose to the position of President and later Chairman of the Board. His son Steve later served as President, as well. In 2001 the company erected a new building at 16955 Hayes Street in Grand Haven Township, but continued part of its production at the Taylor Avenue complex.

**1953 STEPHEN PLATT CO. [1953-present]**

Stephen A. Platt, a native of Rock Island, Illinois, where he was born in 1903, in 1953 founded the company that carried his name. Platt invented the resistance coiler, a machine that coiled wire into the familiar heating element used in virtually all equipment that is intended to provide heat. The plant was located at 1100 Fulton in Grand Haven. The business was run as a family unit with Platt's wife, Varnet, their daughter Jeanine, and son-in-law, Walter Wolff.

**1953 HAVEN HARNESS CO. [1953-56]**

Started in 1953 by John Huisman upstairs in the Oakes Building at 234 Washington Street, Haven Harness later moved into part of the building occupied by Grand Haven Transformers on Hayes Road. It employed four persons producing wiring harnesses for home appliances, cable assemblies, and cord sets. Husiman sold the business to Electrical Assemblies on August 10, 1956.

**1953 SMITH WOOD PRODUCTS [1953-?]**

**1953 SEAVER INDUSTRIAL FINISHING CO. [1953-present]**

Started in 1953 at 830 Woodlawn Street in Grand Haven by James Seaver, Seaver Industrial Finishing employed six persons in industrial painting, spraying, baking, packaging, and assembly. The firm later relocated to 1645 Marion and in 1995 to 16900 Hayes in Grand Haven Township. In the mid-1970s Ronald J. Seaver was President of the firm, David L. Seaver was Vice President-Secretary, and James M. Seaver was Vice President-Treasurer.

**1953 GRAND HAVEN SCREEN CO. [1953-?]**

The Grand Haven Screen Company was formed in 1953 with offices at 707½ Washington Street. Jack Vanden Berg and Ed Stuberg, who was also the proprietor of the Stuberg Awning Company at the same address, were partners in the company. The Screen Company later moved to 119 South Fourth and Stuberg Awning to 117 North Third Street.

**1954 B-R METAL PRODUCTS [1954-present]**

Started in 1954 by Bert Reuter Dahl in a section of the Sam Garvin building at 410 South Harbor, B-R Metal Products employed six people producing metal stampings. In 1963 B-R erected a new building near the corner of M-104 and 144<sup>th</sup> Street in Spring Lake Township. The firm was closely associated with the automotive, agricultural, and rubber industries.

**1954 S & W INDUSTRIES [1954-?]**

Located at 6262 Grand Haven Road and owned by Alvin Wetterman, S & W Industries opened in 1954 to do metal painting, wood finishing, and bonderizing. It employed four people.

**1954 CARTER ENGINEERING CO. [1954-?]**

Started March 1, 1954 at 521 Oak Street in Ferrysburg with Richard O. Carter, President and Robert Fuller, General Manager, Carter Engineering employed five people. It produced tools, jigs, dies, fixtures, special machinery, designing, experimental and development work, ball joints, special bearing linkages, and special end rods. In 1978 Greg Carter was President-Treasurer and Bruce Carter was Vice President-Secretary.

**1954 CAMFIELD FIBER GLASS PLASTIC, INC. [1954-1955]**

Located at 718 North Seventh Street in Grand Haven with Lawrence V. Meyering, President, Camfield Fiber Glass Plastic manufactured laundry set tubs, chemical laboratory drawers, a flying "saucer" sled, office machine housings, and military items, including radio and radar reflecting antenna and electrical components. In July 1955, a year after its founding, Camfield moved its operations to Zeeland.

**1954 STERLING MFG. CO. [1954-1969]**

Started in August 1954 by Elmer C. Dvorak, N. M. Carndell, and John H. Dabelstein, Sterling Manufacturing employed four people. It manufactured lighting accessories for fluorescent fixtures until 1969. It was located at 206 South Jackson in Spring Lake.

**1954 ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL [1954-present]**

St. Mary's Catholic School opened in a new building at 406 East Savidge on September 8, 1954 with 150 students attending grades three through eighth. First and second grades were added the following year. In late summer 1953, the adjacent Catholic Church had launched a year-long campaign to raise \$100,000 for construction of the new building. Palatine Sisters Thomasine, Emilia, Magdalena, Perpetua, and Annette were the first teachers and administrators. [*Tribune* article, "Catholic School to Celebrate Anniversary Sunday," February 3, 2005.]

**1955 WGHN RADIO [1955-present]**

Robert Runyon and Robert Kirby, former employees of WOOD Radio and WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, began radio broadcasting in the Grand Haven area in April 1955 under the call letters WGHN. The station operated with 500 watts of power at 1370 on the AM dial. Twenty-four hour-FM at 92.1 was added later. Runyon was director of the radio station and Kirby was the staff announcer. They operated from 228½ Washington, above Grand Haven Jewelry, where the station remained until the late 1970s. The company built a 200-foot transmitting tower on Harbor Island, but it had to be moved to the corner of 178<sup>th</sup> and Comstock in Grand Haven Township because of poor footings on the Island. Runyon and Kirby sold their business in 1958 to Spring Lake resident Burt Wolf. Wolf sold it to Richard Gillespie three years later. In 1964 a group called Community Broadcasters, organized by Douglas Tjapkes, bought the station from Gillespie and owned it until 1983. On April 1 that year Tjapkes sold the station to a group of Grand Rapids investors headed by William Struyk, who also had worked for WOOD radio. In 1997 Struyk and Ron Mass, head of the News Department at WGHN, bought out the other shareholders. Ten years later they sold to Grand Rapids resident Will Tieman, who owned the Spartan News Network. The radio station moved to 208 Franklin in 1978, then to 120 South Seventh Street, where it remained until relocating to 1 South Harbor in 1985.

**1955 FOREMAN MFG. CO. [1955-?]**

Located first on Warner Street in Grand Haven Township, Foreman Manufacturing was started in 1955 by Adrian L. Foreman. It produced laminated golf blocks, curved panels, and light metal stampings. It employed two part-time women. Before long it moved to 403 Davis in Grand Haven. By the late 1970s Vernon Bryant and Bruce Anderson were owners.

**1955 GRAND HAVEN PATTERN CO. [1955-?]**

Started in October 1955 at 1555 Marion Street in Grand Haven by George Osipoff, Grand Haven Pattern employed one man full-time and two men part-time. It produced wood and metal patterns, small tool work, and plastic mold dies. In June 1958 he sold the business to Carl Fred Kleist, who changed the name to Quality Pattern.

**1955 B & B METAL PRODUCTS CO. [1955-?]**

B & B Metal Products was formed in January 1955 by Hubert D. Burnside, President, Edward J. Blotney, Vice President, and Robert D. Burnside, Secretary-Treasurer. Products included refrigerator racks, rotisseries, and items for the stove and refrigerator industries. Labor was performed by Burnside Manufacturing Company in the Burnside plant at 510 West Liberty Street in Spring Lake.

**1955 EXCEL WOOD FINISHERS [1955-?]**

Located at 14421 Cleveland Road, Spring Lake, Excel Wood Finishers was started November 1, 1955 by L. Frank Augsbach. It performed custom work in all dark and blond finishes, produced samples, and did furniture and piano refinishing and repair. The firm employed two men and one woman.

**1955 D & B PRODUCTS [1955-?]**

Started in 1955 as the D & B Chemical Company in Muskegon, it later moved to Muskegon Heights. In December 1970 it was taken over by Cal Ludoma and Ed Kling and moved to a new building in Spring Lake at 16910 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue on September 1, 1972 with 7,000 sq. ft. floor space. It had nine employees on November 1, 1972. The firm manufactured car care products, home care products, janitorial products, and windshield washer anti-freeze. It was the only blow molder of plastic bottles in West Michigan. It printed labels for cans and products for astronauts for distribution in West Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana.

**1955 GRAND RA-TRONICS [1955-1957]**

Grand Ra-Tronics started in 1955 to manufacture transformers to be used in testing equipment in laboratories and schools, in communications, signal devices, and in many commercial and industrial products. It was located at 17360 Hayes Street in Grand Haven Township. On October 30, 1957 the *Muskegon Chronicle* reported that the unexplained closing of the Grand Ra-Tronics plant in 1957 was caused by labor troubles. It employed 35 persons at that time.

**1955 ARROW PRODUCTS, INC. [1955-1963]**

Arrow Products was formed and started in Grand Rapids in 1955. The company began as a manufacturer of wheel conveyor, roller conveyor, belt conveyors, and hand trucks and ladders in a building on Ferris Street near U.S. 31 in Grand Haven Township in the fall of 1955. Officers were E. G. Artz, President, Richard O'Brien, Vice President and General Manager, and Edward Reus, Secretary. In September 1961 the company was sold to Union Asbestos & Rubber Co. of Chicago but expected to continue operations in Grand Haven. In May 1963 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that Arrow Products, by then located at 14130 172<sup>nd</sup> Street, would cease operations by July 1.

**1956 LAKELAND PAINTERS [1956-present]**

In 1956 Al Melis, an art teacher at Grand Haven High School, offered an evening art class for adults. At the conclusion of the course, attendees decided to continue meeting. They convened at the Women's Club [318 Washington], the Chamber of Commerce office [1 Washington], and at a place they called the "Garret," located at 214½ Franklin. In 1958 the 18 members organized themselves formally as Lakeland Painters. The first officers were Norma Green, President; Shirley Schroeder, Vice President; Florence Hagadone, Treasurer; and Diane Morse, Publicity. Betty Kammeraad [Dobbie] also was active in the group from the beginning. The next year the group sponsored its first juried show, and in 1960 they contracted with Professor John Goodyear of the University of Michigan to teach a five-week summer course. In the early 1960s Lakeland Painters moved to space behind Dr. Peter De Vries's office at 321 Washington. Their next move was to the Community Center in 1966, where they remained.

**1956 STAR MACHINE COMPANY/INTEGRATED METAL TECHNOLOGY [1956-present]**

Robert Fuller, owner and President, organized Star Machine [Star Industries] in Spring Lake in 1956 as a contract steel fabricator. Later the firm added office and school furniture. At first it leased space from King Tool and Die at 1525 Marion in Grand Haven. In January 1958 the company received a land grant from the Village of Spring Lake and moved its operations to the corner of Cutler and Exchange Streets. In March, 1968 a fire damaged the plant. The structure was rebuilt with additional floor space and an enlarged assembly area. Fuller sold the company in 1976 to Herman Miller of Zeeland. The plant was renamed Integrated Metal Technology and moved to 17155 Van Wagoner in Spring Lake Township. It produced metal fabricated parts and supplied parts for office furniture companies. The company continued to do business from this address into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**1956 KING TOOL & DIE [1956-1966]**

Fred King started King Tool & Die in 1956 with two employees operating in a building at a site at 1604 Marion Street with 1,200 sq. ft. of floor space. This was the fifth firm to locate in the Marion Street industrial addition. At that time the company's equipment included a milling machine, grinder, lathe, shaper, and press. On April 1, 1966 King sold his company to Di-X-Cell Tool Industries, Inc.

**1956 REDI-WOOD MFG. [1956-present]**

Redi-Wood Manufacturing specialized in pre-hung doors, trim, stairways, and accessories. It was started in 1956 by Don De Jonge I, and later operated by his son, Don II. The business initially was located at 1350 Kooiman in Grand Haven.

**1957 DE PERSIA AUTOMATIC BAILER, INC. [1957-?]**

John L. De Persia of 518 Friant Street in Grand Haven developed an automatic boat bailer and began production in 1957. The business was located at 1640 Marion in the early 1970s.

**1957 MIDWEST CONCRETE PIPE CO. [1957-?]**

Midwest Concrete Pipe, which started business in 1957 at 425 North Ferry Street, employed 15 men to make more than 40 pipes daily. The plant was managed by engineer Donald Welling, who was a partner in the firm with local contractors Donald and William Dykhouse. They used the German "vibrapipe" system and the company was the third in the United States to go into operation with the low-cost high-speed process. The brothers also operated an excavating business at 445 Ferry.

**1957 SCHOLTEN AND FANT [1957-present]**

Harvey Scholten and Howard Fant founded the law firm bearing their names in 1957. Its first offices were located above the Grand Haven State Bank at 223 Washington in Grand Haven, and

later the firm expanded to Holland. It became one of the largest law practices in Ottawa County. In late 2003 the firm purchased the Big Store [Baas's Men's Store] building at 100 North Third, remodeled it extensively, and moved its offices there in the fall of 2004.

**1957 LOUTIT FOUNDATION [1957-2011]**

In 1957 William R. Loutit set up the Loutit Foundation, with Paul A. Johnson, E. Vincent Erickson, Harvey L. Scholten, and John H. Uhl as Trustees. Loutit died on November 29, 1961. His wife, Catherine, was named Trustee a few months later, but she died on June 15, 1962, leaving no direct heirs. The remaining family assets, amounting to about \$5,000,000, went to the Foundation. The mission of the Foundation was to "serve the public welfare by providing financial assistance to other non-profit organizations." The Foundation's first grant was \$15,000 to start developing the Musical Fountain. The second grant went to Alma College, and another of early grants funded construction of the Lee Chapel at Lake Forest Cemetery. In its first quarter century, the Loutit Foundation distributed \$3.25 million in grants. All funds were to be distributed shortly after the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Foundation, but it wasn't until 2011 that its assets of approximately \$2.5 million to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. Ironically, it was the Loutit Foundation that in 1973 provided a challenge grant to the recently formed GHACF to help it get underway.

**1958 QUALITY PATTERN CO. [1958-?]**

In September 1958, Carl Fred Kleist purchased Grand Haven Pattern from George Osipoff and changed the name of the business to Quality Pattern. Prior to the purchase, Carl had been employed at Paragon Pattern in Muskegon, doing the same type of work. In the mid-1960s the plant was located at 1555 Marion. George Kruizenga came to this business in 1969 as a partner.

**1958 LAKEVIEW PLASTICS [1958-?]**

Lakeview Plastics was located at 149 Maple Street in Fruitport with Dick Morse, President, to manufacture vinyl coatings using hot or cold dip plastics. It started production in 1958.

**1958 GRAND HAVEN CIVIC THEATER/CENTRAL PARK PLAYERS [1958-present]**

The earliest staged performances in this area appeared at the Ottawa County Courthouse in 1862, to benefit local Civil War soldiers. Among the titles presented were "The American Union," "Pocahontas Saving the Life of Capt. John Smith," "Mischief in School," and "Extracting a Tooth." By 1870 dramatizations moved to the new Music Hall, at the corner of Franklin and Second Streets. By then productions were put on by both local and traveling troupes. On September 12, 1870, the oratorio *Esther* was staged and included 50 singers. Admission was 50 cents. In 1878 the newly formed Grand Haven Dramatic Club put on its first show at the Music Hall. In it appeared Heber V. Squier, Thomas Stewart White, Minnie Wallace, Nellie Squier, and George L. Stearns. That organization faded in 1936. However, in 1949 a summer stock group began putting on performances at the Women's Club at 318 Washington, formerly the Unitarian Church. Its first performance was on July 5, 1949, and productions that summer included *Dear Ruth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Mr. Pim Passes By*, and *John Loves Mary*. The permanent cast included drama students from Central Michigan College [CMU]. Mrs Max Metzler was the company's business manager. Two years later Central Michigan offered college credit to students working in the Lake Michigan Playhouse. William A. Gregory II was the instructor and James Ryan was Co-Director. Then, in 1959, Grand Haven Civic Theater was organized and presented *Bus Stop* in February 1960. Dr. William Creason was the first President, R. L. Fritch, owner of the Lake Michigan Playhouse, was Manager, and Mrs Donald Wilson was Production Manager. In 1966 to 1967 the players moved to the new Community Center on Columbus and changed its name to Central Park Players. Among its earliest performances were *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *The Odd Couple*, and *Bell, Book, and Candle*.

**1959 TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM [1959-present]**

On May 23, 1959 Esther Dean Nyland helped organize a meeting of 19 local residents with Willard Wichers of the Michigan Historical Commission to discuss formation of a local historic society. In October that year, 106 charter members of the Society adopted a constitution that read in part: "The purpose of the Tri-Cities Historical Society is to encourage historical study and research; to collect and preserve historical material connected with the communities of Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg, and vicinity thereof; to give all residents of the communities named above a knowledge of its common heritage; to acquire property, both real and personal, by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise and dispose of any real and/or personal property in any manner whatsoever; and in general to carry on any business in connection therewith and incident thereto not forbidden by the laws of the State of Michigan. . . ." Officer elected in the first year were Dr. David Seibold as President and Esther Dean Nyland as Recording Secretary. George Christman was Vice President, Isabel Bilz, Corresponding Secretary, and Raymond Swansen, Treasurer. The Society's first project was an observance of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Grand Haven during the week of November 2-8, 1959, when exhibits were placed in the display windows of many downtown businesses. Similar celebrations were held about the same time each year thereafter. On April 25, 1962 the Masons agreed to give the museum use of three rooms on the second floor of their Temple building at 228½ Washington. Five years later the organization opened another room for museum use. On May 23, 1972, after lengthy negotiations with the City of Grand Haven, the museum moved from the Masonic Temple building to the Grand Trunk Railroad Depot at 1 North Harbor, property purchased by the City five years earlier. Maurice Wilson was Director at the time. The Society raised \$10,000 for remodeling the train station, an effort led by Dr. Mary Kitchel, President of the Society, Ken King, Preston Bilz, Bill France, Maurice Wilson, Esther Dean Nyland, John and Evelyn Pfaff, Karl Rowe, Ann Klugas, Ruth Soule, and Doris Wilsberg. Other early volunteers were Betty and Chester Anderson, Harold Bretschneider, Robert Cernoch, George Donner, and Gertrude Kloepper. Maury Wilson served as Museum Director from the summer of 1973 to December 1981. Molly Perry became the first full-time, paid Director in April 1987 and Kenneth Schultz was hired in 1988 as the museum's first Curator. In 1992 Betty Kammeraad was appointed Director. She served in that capacity until 2001, when Dennis Swartout took the job. In recent years the organization became better known as the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. In 2002 the Museum's Board of Directors approved purchase of the Akeley Building at 200 Washington. After a successful fund-raising drive and extensive renovations inside and out, the new Museum opened to the public on July 1, 2004. The building's mortgage was paid in full in the fall of 2007. The Grand Trunk Depot was converted to a transportation museum, but later converted by the city to an event center.

**1958 WATER THRILL SHOW [1958-1974]**

After a year of planning, Lyle "Whitey" White staged Grand Haven's first local water thrill show in the summer of 1958. White specialized in water skiing stunts and parasailing, which earned him the sobriquet "Whitey White, the human kite." He repeated his program the next summer in Muskegon, and then returned to Grand Haven in 1960. White also took his show to Navy Pier in Chicago, and to a variety of places in Michigan. He retired from water skiing in 1961, and a year later local residents Joan Boand and Felix Pytlinski took charge of the show. For the next sixteen years their Water Thrill Show provided summertime entertainment along the banks of the Grand River in Grand Haven. From 1962 through 1968 the group used the facilities of Harbor Industries to stage its program each Wednesday and Friday night during the months of July and August. When Municipal Stadium, behind the Tri-Cities Historical Museum at the foot of Washington Street, was completed in 1968, the show was moved to that area. Among the performers were Droopy the Clown, Willie Raby, who was a one-legged skier, five-year old John Vander Meer, Bob Forrest, Bernie Felix, the jumping-boat driver, Terry and Linda Roer, Henry and Linda Velzen, and David Rude, who was the first person to parasail across Lake Michigan. Their

program included comic skits on water, jumps, trick skiing, ballet, fast boats, and kiting. Pytlinski also owned and operated a marina at 14023 Green Street in Grand Haven Township.

**1959 ROLL FORM DESIGN INC.** [1959-?]

Roll Form Design was formed in 1959 at Oak Park, Michigan and moved to Grand Haven to consult and trouble shoot. It formed a new corporation, Roll Form Design, Inc., in August 1966, which was located at 14170 172<sup>nd</sup> Street in Grand Haven Township.

**1959 KIP EQUIPMENT CO.** [1959-?]

Duane Brady was President of Kip Equipment, located at 201 South Harbor Avenue in Grand Haven. The Company, which started operations in 1959, assembled egg washers and employed three people. Brady also was co-owner of Welded Products, started in 1942.

**1959 SPRING LAKE WESLEYAN CHURCH** [1959-present]

The Spring Lake Wesleyan Church was founded as a missionary project of the Holland Central Wesleyan Church and initially called the Spring Lake Wesleyan Methodist Church. The first service was held August 2, 1959 in the former Spring Lake Presbyterian Church on the corner of Savidge and Church Streets. Rev. Ronald Smeenge was the first pastor. Within five years the congregation was able to purchase a 1917 mission-style facility in the 200 block of Savidge, and by 1964 the congregation had grown to 50 families. In the mid-1970s the church merged with the pilgrim Holiness Church and renamed the Wesleyan Church. Not long afterward the church moved into a new facility at 15550 Cleveland, just east of the Village, and the former facility was sold to Christ Community. Eventually, the congregation was able to buy a 16-acre parcel bordering on Lloyd's Bayou, and over the years several improvements were made to the original building. By 1997 the congregation had grown to more than 1,000 people.

**1960 YMCA/SKI BOWL** [1960-present]

See YMCA, 1963.

**1960 LOJEBAR CO.** [1960-?]

Located at 1626 Marion Street in Grand Haven, Lojebbar was started by Louis J. Barton in 1960 to produce fiberglass planters in about 50 combinations of sizes, styles, and finishes. Barton designed the planters and owned the molds. The actual molding was done by other firms. The planters were sent back to his factory to be assembled and then are shipped out. The plant employed three people.

**1960 BOMARD INDUSTRIES, INC.** [1960-?]

Located on South Beacon Boulevard in Grand Haven with B. G. Bowden, Vice President and its main plant in Kansas City, Missouri, Bomard Industries was run by supplier George Morrell Corp. of Muskegon. Starting in 1960, it was an assembly plant for reinforced fiberglass bicycles.

**1960 M & S TOOL & DIE CO./M & S CO.** [1960-present]

David Shultz started M & S Tool and Die in his garage at home [15370 David Street] in 1960. He had previously worked for the Jarecki Corporation in Grand Rapids doing the same type of work, manufacturing parts for office partitions, roll form appliances, and advertising displays. In 1983, the company phased out the tool and die business and concentrated on slotted tubing. The firm later had 43 employees and had accounts established throughout the United States. The plant was located at 17169 Hayes in Grand Haven Township. John C. Carlyle, an attorney in the Grand Haven office of Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt, and Howlett, acquired M & S Tooling in 1988. The firm later was known as the M & S Company.

**1960 C & M COATED PRODUCTS** [1960-present]



Started in January 1960 by Mr. Cooley and Mr. Miller, officers of C & M Coated Products were Ruth Swartz, President, and Robert Tipsword, Vice President. In March 1961 a gas-fired baking oven exploded at the plant in Spring Lake and caused damage estimated at \$15,000 to \$18,000. The company relocated to 17635 Hayes Street in Grand Haven Township. Tipsword became President after Swartz's departure.

**1960 CARLSON TOOL & MFG CO. [1960-?]**

On March 22, 1960, about the time Carlson Tool opened, wind flattened the cement block walls of its tool shop located on U.S. 31.

**1960 LYNN PORCELAIN CO. [1960-1962]**

Located at 1541 Marion Street in Grand Haven, Lynn Porcelain went out of business in July 1962, two years after it was founded.

**1960 HARBOR BUFFING/HARBOR DEBURRING & FINISHING [1960-present]**

Leslie Vink and James Seaver I started Harbor Buffing in 1960 in the Grand Haven Coal and Dock building at 117 South Harbor Avenue in Grand Haven. The company soon moved to 205 South Harbor and later to 1626 Marion Street. Vink, who came up with the idea for the business, brought Seaver in on it. Vink had worked at Camfield's for 10 years doing the same type of work. Seaver, also a former employee at the Camfield Company, became President of Harbor Buffing. Vink later went to work for Anderson-Bolling. After Vink's death in 2003 his son Steve took over. The company was renamed Harbor Deburring & Finishing.

**1961 HARVEY MACHINE, INC. [1961-1973]**

Originally located at 724 Taylor Street in Grand Haven with John Harvey, President, Harvey Machine started in 1961 to distribute and manufacture equipment to handle blueberry and apple picking chores. The blueberry picker, called the Harvey Harvester, could pick one ton of berries in one hour. In 1967 the company developed an asparagus harvesting machine. The same year the company built a new assembly plant on Van Wagoner Road, near U.S. 31. In 1969 a Milwaukee firm bought Harvey Machine. In 1973 the plant was phased out to change operations from a manufacturing plant to a Western Michigan service center.

**1961 CROWN CHEMICAL CO. [1961-?]**

Leo E. Earle owned Crown Chemical, located behind Millers Mart. Beginning in 1961, the firm manufactured sweeping compounds and ice remover.

**1961 AL-COBB CORP. [1961-1962]**

Located at 1829 Doris Avenue in Grand Haven with Joe Zarikta owner, Al-Cobb began the manufacture of corncob pipes in 1961. The next year the business was sold to four businessmen from Grand Rapids, and the name was changed to Aristocobb Inc. The firm employed five people while in Grand Haven.

**1961 MEIJER, INC. [1961-present]**

Grand Rapids resident Hendrik Meijer started the store bearing his family name in 1934, many decades before the chain came to Northwest Ottawa County. In the summer of 1961, the company opened a 15,000 sq. ft. supermarket in "Beacon Plaza," at the southeast corner of Beacon and Jackson Streets. The store was designated "No. 18" by the home office. At that time Meijer employee Bill Whittaker was promoted to his first managerial position, Grocery Manager. Ten years after opening, the store in November tripled its floor space by taking over the areas leased by W.T. Grant and A & P Super Market. With that expansion, it became known as Meijer Thrifty Acres. Casemier's pharmacy was acquired in 1975, giving Meijer the entire building. The

building then was remodeled, a live pet department was added, and Security First Bank & Trust [Old Kent/Fifth Third] opened a branch, adding to Meijer's concept of one-stop shopping. This latest expansion led to the store's third grand opening, held on April 12, 1976. In May 1999, the entire operation moved from 430 North Beacon to a new 210,000 sq. ft. building at the northwest corner of Comstock and 172<sup>nd</sup> Street, just off U.S. 31. The new outlet allowed the store to greatly expand all departments and add some new ones, including a gas station. Bill Whittaker continued as Store Director.

**1962 PLANTENGA'S CLEANERS [1962-present]**

After working as a deliveryman for Modern Dry Cleaners since 1953, Henry Plantenga bought the business from Jim Robbins nine years later and renamed it Plantenga's Cleaners, located at 217 West Savidge in Spring Lake. The Plantengas had moved to the area from Chicago in 1948. In 1981 their second oldest son, Allan, joined the business. The same year they acquired Royal Drive-In Cleaners at 33 Franklin Street in Grand Haven in order to extend their services to customers on the south side of the Grand River. By the early 1990s the older Plantenga went into semi-retirement and Al took over the business. A few years later Al's sister, Le Ann Glasser, the youngest of the Plantenga children, joined him as co-owner. By 2000 Plantenga's had 20 full-time and part-time employees. Their laundromat in Spring Lake was destroyed by the May 31, 1998 windstorm and the drycleaning shop was damaged. The Plantengas rebuilt and upgraded the building at that time and renamed the laundromat Spring Lake Super Suds.

**1962 ALLKIRK, INC. [1962-?]**

Allkirk began in 1962 to manufacture and distribute specialized photographic equipment.

**1962 LITE-LIFT CO. [1962-1968]**

Philip Meeske was owner of Lite-Lift, which manufactured portable ski tows from 1962 to 1968. It was located at 111 Maple Terrace in Spring Lake.

**1962 LLOYD'S WELDING CO. [1962-?]**

Lloyd Merz in 1962 started a welding business, located at 901 West Savidge in Spring Lake, which specialized in production welding.

**1962 HARBOR MARINE CO. [1962-?]**

John Froelich was owner of Harbor Marine Construction Company, which was subcontracted work on the water intake at the Grand Rapids pumping station south of Grand Haven, and also to do some dredging on the Grand River, beginning in 1962.

**1962 FERRY HEIGHTS PRODUCTS CO. [1962-?]**

George Van Doorne was owner of Ferry Heights Products, which in 1962 offered metal stamping and fabricating, welding, and assembly. The company was located at 520 Oak Street in Ferrysburg.

**1962 FALCON CORP. [1962-present]**

George W. Beamer started Falcon Corporation at 510 Elm Street in Ferrysburg after he retired in 1962. He had been a tool and die maker years and decided to open his own business.

**1962 PLYWOOD COMPONENTS CORP. [1962-?]**

Plywood Components, which started business in 1962, was located at 17360 Hayes Road in Grand Haven Township. In January 1964 a fire was discovered, believed to have been started by an overheated electric laminating press in an assembly room. Loss was estimated at \$75,000 to

\$100,000 by Howard Bowen, President and General Manager. The plant employed 12 in the manufacture of laminated beams and structural wood building parts.

**1962 ATCO RUBBER PRODUCTS INC./ATCOFLEX, INC. [1962-1979]**

Located at 14261 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven with Charles Anderson and William Tuggle as partners, Atco Rubber Products started in 1962 to manufacture molding and special hoses for the aircraft industry. In 1964 the company developed a new drier hose for appliances and marine hoses. In 1968 the company added first extrusion lines for plastic coating wiring used in hose. It started with two employees and in September 1967 it employed 40. In 1978 Atco split into two companies, including Atcoflex, Inc. In October 1979 Atco closed its Grand Haven plant because the product it made was replaced with a new process. Plant manager William Van Dop said the plant at 1605 Marion closed October 19, 1979 and 10 employees were laid off. Atco produced a duct tape process used for Atco's five other assembly plants in various parts of the country.

**1962 BEACON STEEL SUPPLY [1962-?]**

Owned by Donald Vander Wier and located at 1600 Marion in Grand Haven, Beacon Steel Supply provided bulk steel for industry beginning in 1962. The firm later moved to Muskegon.

**1962 FRUITPORT METAL FINISHING CO. [1962-?]**

Ivar Fri, owner, opened Fruitport Metal Finishing in 1962. The firm, located at 28 North Third Avenue in Fruitport, specialized in polishing and buffing.

**1962 FRUITPORT STONE CO. [1962-?]**

Located at 6530 Airline Road in Fruitport with William Stone as owner, Fruitport Stone specialized in Indiana limestone, beginning in 1962.

**1962 KIRBY CO. [1962-present]**

Formed April 1962 by Robert C. Oosting of Muskegon Heights, Kirby Company was located at 1410 Fulton Street in Grand Haven, starting in 1962. Later Oosting moved his company back to Muskegon, where he located at 2832 Apple Avenue.

**1962 IDEAL PATTERN SHOP [1962-?]**

Walter Essenberg was owner of Ideal Pattern, located at 104 Third Avenue in Fruitport, which specialized in wood and metal patterns, starting in 1962.

**1962 LAKESHORE MILLWORK CO. [1962-?]**

Located at the corner of Fifth and Elm Streets [220 Fifth Street] in Ferrysburg with Maurice Rosema, Manager, Lakeshore Millwork specialized in display woodworking. In July 1963, a year after it opened for business, a fire caused by an overheated air compressor did \$5,000 worth of damage.

**1962 PRECISION MILLWORK [1962-?]**

William Kieft was owner of Precision Millwork, located at 403 Davis in Grand Haven, which began in 1962 to produce wooden components and products, pallets, and skids.

**1962 KNOPPEL, INC. [1962-?]**

In 1962 Knoppel, an engineering company, moved into offices at 228 Washington Street in Grand Haven to become headquarters for a national operation investing in modular buildings.

**1962 PERMA-VOLT TRANSFORMERS, INC. [1962-?]**

Once located at 1619 Marion Street in Grand Haven, Perma-Volt Transformers went out of business. It started in 1962.

**1962 PLASTICS ENGINEERING [1962-?]**

Established in 1962 at 149 Maple Street in Fruitport by Richard Morse and Harvey Matthews, partners, Plastics Engineering specialized in plastic coating on metal.

**1962 MCKELLIPS & SONS, INC. [1962-present]**

McKellips Heating & Cooling was established by Claude and Jean McKellips at 310 Fifth Street in Ferrysburg in 1962 and moved to 1097 Jackson in Grand Haven the next year. The owners were joined by their sons, Steven and Richard, and incorporated in 1972, moving back to Ferrysburg in May 1973, to a location at 200 Fifth Street. McKellips carried a full line of furnaces and air conditioning units. Steven McKillips became President of the company. He was joined by his son, Steven II, and his wife, Charlotte, who was vice president and office manager.

**1962 LEIGH PRODUCTS [1962-present]**

Robert C. Tyo was President and Robert Willis Vice President of Leigh Products, located in Coopersville. The company started in 1962 when the owners, Gerwin Bromwell of Michigan City, Ives of New Haven, and Rute-Williams of Indiana, purchased Air Control. At that time the company was manufacturing registers, grills, defusers, metal doors, and range hoods. Half of the 1,600 Leigh employees were from West Michigan. The company produced builders' products, consumer home products, furniture, and cabinetry.

**1962 ERNST MFG. CO./ERMANCO, INC. [1962-present]**

Marvin Ernst founded Ernst Manufacturing on March 1, 1962 in a small plant at 1604 Marion Street in Grand Haven with 1200 sq. ft. of floor space and offices at 830 Woodlawn. It was a one-man operation that did metal stampings, assembly, and industrial painting. Continuing its job shop operations, the firm expanded into the design and manufacture of conveyor systems. About November 1, 1962 Ernst Manufacturing started production of conveyor systems for Nabisco and continued in-job shop work for the next 12 months. In October 1963 the Ermanco product line of gravity and power conveyors was developed and cataloged. On May 6, 1966 Ernst, located at 830 Woodlawn, changed the business's name to Ermanco Inc. Ted Hammond took over controlling interest when he bought out Marvin Ernst. The acquisition of Ermanco was finalized by Whiting Corporation of Harvey, Illinois in May 1970 with an exchange of 22,000 shares of Whiting Corporation common stock for all outstanding stock of Ermanco. On November 8, 1974 Ermanco, Inc. announced plans to move its facilities to 6860 Grand Haven Road in Norton Shores.

**1963 CHALLENGE PLUMBING & MFG. CO. [1963-?]**

Located in Beacon Plaza with Milton Schiffman, President, and William Perlman, Vice President, Challenge Plumbing employed two women in the office. Starting in 1963, Challenge Porcelain of Grand Haven provided the products. The company bought stampings for tubs, sinks, lavatories, etc., that were used in mobile homes, apartments, hotels, and similar places. By 1965 the company was located at 860 Jackson in Grand Haven.

**1963 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION/YMCA [1963-present]**

The Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC] built a camp in Mulligan's Hollow [later designated 1 Y Drive] in 1939 for \$50,000. In 1942 the CCC camp was converted to a training facility for Coast Guard recruits. It closed at the end of the war. Between 1960 and 1961 the site was developed for skiing, through the leadership of Al Jacobson, Jack Jordan, and Bob Yelton, and the area earned

the name “Mulligan’s Hollow Ski Bowl.” Ski Bowl operated sporadically during the ensuing decades, depending on snow conditions and financing.

In 1958 Dr. David Seibold, a Grand Haven dentist, organized a swim program, using private pools. Five years later he led a drive to organize a local YMCA. Charter members were signed up between January and March 1963, and the group was officially chartered by the national YMCA on March 26 that year. Charter members of the Y’s Board of Directors were David Seibold, Vern Markley, Jerry Messer, John Walhout, Bernath P. Sherwood III, Foster Poe, Edwin Cook, Darld Black, Norman Spring, Milton Swingle, Steve Sluka, Don Badcon, Hector N. Christiansen, and Frederick Miles. For the first few years, Y members met at the Armory [17 South Second Street]. In 1971 the barracks at Mulligan’s Hollow were razed, and two years later the YMCA purchased from the City of Grand Haven the north portion of the site for \$1,000. On August 25, 1973 an 80-acre park was dedicated by Mayor John Walhout. Two years later the YMCA opened to the public at a cost of \$1,500,000 and moved all activities from the Armory. The new facility included a pool. A \$3,000,000 addition was made in 1995.

**1963 BOMERS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS [1963-present]**

Martin D. Bomers started his cleaning business in 1963. Called Bomers Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners, the business was first located at 18545 West Spring Lake Road, then 414 West Savidge, and in the early 1990s moved to 18055 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Spring Lake Township.

**1964 KELLY SALES ENGINEERING [1964-present]**

Established in 1964 at 1120 Judson Road in Spring Lake Township, Kelly Sales Engineering dealt with overhead hoists, cranes, and steel structures. Richard L. Kelly was Sales Engineer. Working with him were Scott A. Kelly, who was a welder, and Scott’s wife, Rhonda, who was Secretary. The firm employed 15 people and had tentative plans to commence construction on a 60’ x 100’ expansion that would increase the facility by 67%. Before the expansion the firm was limited in size when it built large bridge cranes.

**1964 GREEN’S FINISHING [1964-1977]**

William L. Green, who started Green’s Finishing in 1964, previously had worked at ASP Company. Originally operating from a leased building at 313 Pine Street in Ferrysburg, Green ran the family business with his brother Larry. Green’s Finishing leased space from Industrial Lumber & Packaging at 721 West Savidge. On April 5, 1974, the *Muskegon Chronicle* announced that the company’s new location would be Mt. Garfield Road in Norton Shores, but evidently it remained on West Savidge. On May 18, 1977 fire did an estimated \$300,000 damage to the building and put Green’s Finishing out of business.

**1964 LAKESHORE GOLF CLUB/GRAND HAVEN GOLF CLUB [1964-present]**

In 1964 W. Bruce Matthews, a golf course architect from Hess Lake, Michigan, entered a partnership with Leo Ebel, Henry Neitring, and James Bussard and organized the Lakeshore Golf Club, later changed to Grand Haven Golf Club, located at 17000 Lincoln Street in Grand Haven Township. The partners took over the project from the local Elk’s Club, which started construction of the 235-acre course in May 1962 but ran out of funds before it could be completed. Initial cost was estimated to be \$200,000. The course, with 18 holes and 6,800 yards of fairway, officially opened around Memorial Day, 1965. A September 30, 1964 report in the *Grand Haven Tribune* said that the course “had been carved from a wilderness.” The developers also platted Timberdunes, a subdivision of homes running between Lakeshore Drive and 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue, dividing the golf course into two segments. A clubhouse was built later at 17000 Lincoln. Two years after opening, Matthews’s son, Wally, took over the management. The Matthews family sold the golf course to Lakeshore Golf, Inc., headed by John Rooney of

Stillwater, Oklahoma, on June 12, 1998. In 2002 the new owners built a clubhouse with a restaurant and opened additional residential building sites.

**1964 DAMA TOOL & GAUGE CO. [1964-present]**

Dama Tool & Gauge Company was organized in 1950 at Warren, Michigan and moved to its location at 1634 Marion Street in Grand Haven during November 1964. Prior to that it was located at 1111 Fulton Street. As a specialized jobbing shop working with helical forms, cams, and specialized gear dies, the firm had customers throughout the United States. Dama Tool & Gauge started as an experimental unit for two other plants, Dale Corp and Cameo Products. When they were sold in 1952, Dama went out on its own and began producing for outside customers. Later the company worked primarily with research laboratories in the automotive and aircraft industries along with other special applications. Desiring to move out of the large metropolitan area, the management, already familiar with Grand Haven, decided that was the place to locate their business. Their specially equipped plant of 6,000 sq. ft. provided employment for nine people. Officers were Maybelle Alderman, president-secretary and Anthony Calomene, vice president. An early morning fire in April 1968 destroyed the plant at 1634 Marion. Loss to the building was estimated at \$27,000 and \$92,000 to the contents. The company moved operations to a vacant building at the intersection of Fulton and Ferry Streets as the firm's permanent location. On October 1, 1974 Dama moved from 1111 Fulton to new facilities at 13690 172<sup>nd</sup> Street. At that site, Elaine Lutz was president-secretary and David Johns was vice president-treasurer.

**1965 GRAND HAVEN STEEL PRODUCTS, INC. [1965-present]**

Located at 1627 Marion Street in Grand Haven, Grand Haven Steel Products started in 1965 to manufacture hardened and precision ground screw machine parts. In 1975 it merged with Dawson Carbide Industries, of Roseville, Michigan, but continued production at the Grand Haven plant. George Owens of Whitehall was General Manager.

**1966 HAVEN TOOL & MFG. [1966-present]**

Located at 13720 172nd Avenue in Grand Haven, Haven Tool Company provided angle setting devices and job shop machining, beginning in 1966. James W. Marcus was President.

**1966 KANDU INDUSTRIES [1966-2015]**

Kandu Industries of Haven Foundation, Inc. started operations in 1966 with eight persons at 12 North First Street in Grand Haven. The shop, like no other in the area, hired its work force from a number of mentally and physically disabled persons 21 and older, with the goal of training those individuals with good working habits. Kandu relocated to 734 Park Avenue in the late 1970s and later to 1825 Industrial Park in Grand Haven Township. Kandu was first started in Holland in 1953. The two skill centers continued operations into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and were doing \$10 million dollars a year in sales and service with non-profit organizations and two retail outlets, FrameWorks in Holland and frame it! in Grand Haven. The organization shut down permanently on September 30, 2015.

**1966 COASTAL ROLLFORM, INC./TECHNOLOGY, INC. [1966-present]**

In February 1966 Coastal Rollform built a 60' x 122' steel structure near Verplank's dock at 500 West Second Street in Ferrysburg, on the banks of the Grand River. The company employed four men and rolled coiled steel, with distribution throughout the Midwest. It was located at 14170 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue by 1971. On August 28, 1969 Maurice F. Krug, President, announced that Technology Incorporated Industrial Products had purchased the company. The business and its assets were acquired, and the Coastal Rollform operated as a division of Technology. The merger significantly expanded Technology's high production metal fabricating capability, Krug said.

Technology then operated two divisions that specialized in aerospace, biomedical, information systems, and photographic research and development, as well as four subsidiaries engaged in the production of technical and scientific products with facilities maintained in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Texas, and California. Technology, Inc., was located at 335 North Griffin in Grand Haven

**1966 POLYPLY, INC./POLYPLY COMPOSITES [1966-?]**

Polyply grew out of Grand Haven Plastics, which was formed in 1951. On September 29, 1964 Sackner Products of Grand Rapids purchased Grand Haven Plastics and on May 30, 1966 Sackner Products was sold to Polyply. The company continued production at 1540 Marion Street, where Grand Haven Plastics originally was located. Roget Knowles was President-Secretary of Polyply.

**1966 TRICO MANUFACTURING CO. [@1966-@1970]**

In the mid-1960s, Monte Sayles was president of Trico Manufacturing Company, located at 520 Oak Street in Ferrysburg. Trico specialized in metal stamping. Around 1970, Trico moved to 14046 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township.

**1967 A & A MFG. CO. [1967-present]**

Alex Marciniak started A & A Manufacturing in 1967. He had done tool and die work all his life, so this type of business was familiar to him. He alternated with another person working at A & A and took another job to help the company out financially, changing places every three months. Marciniak later brought his son into the business. The company was located at 19033 174<sup>th</sup> Street in Spring Lake Township.

**1967 MEDALLION INSTRUMENTS, INC./KYSOR-MEDALLION [1967-present]**

Medallion Instruments, with Fred R. Fletemeyer as President and located at 917 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake, began in 1967 to design and manufacture its own meter movements, sending units, fuse blocks, wiring harnesses, and many other marine oriented accessories. Their instruments were specified as original equipment on many leading pleasure craft, such as Chrysler Marine, Searay, Reinell, Century Starcraft, AFL, and Slickcraft. A growing demand for increased output prompted the company to establish a second plant in Otsego. By the late 1970s Richard G. Fletemeyer was President of the company. On August 21, 1987 the company announced it had been acquired by Kysor Industrial Corporation and in October 1987, ground was broken for a new 80,000 square foot manufacturing plant at 17150 Hickory in the Spring Lake Township Industrial Park, at a projected cost of nearly \$1.6 million.

**1967 HARDY CO. [1967-1968]**

“Hardy Tags” were full color horticultural tags printed on an unusual plastic material used for identification. Philip Wheeler was President of Hardy, which was located at 1640 Marion. A year after its founding in 1967, Hardy Company moved to Oxford, Ohio.

**1967 INDUSTRIAL LUMBER & PACKAGING [1967-present]**

An outgrowth of Christman Lumber Company, Industrial Lumber & Packaging, a family-owned company, changed from retail to manufacturing in February 1967. On May 18, 1977 fire did an estimated \$300,000 damage to the building at 721 West Savidge. One of the companies that rented space in the building, Green’s Finishing, was put out of business by the fire, and Industrial Lumber & Packaging had its warehouse space badly damaged. The office building of Tri-Cities Construction at 925 West Savidge, about 100 feet west of the fire, was not damaged. Industrial Lumber later relocated to 701 Second Street in Ferrysburg. See also George W. Christman Lumber Company [1895].

**1967 CONSUMERS POWER/CONSUMERS ENERGY [1967-present]**

On May 31, 1967 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that the Port Sheldon Power Plant being constructed by Consumers Power of Jackson, Michigan was nearly complete. The 344-man construction crew was nearly two-thirds done on the second steam boiler and generator system that would provide 386,500 kilowatts of peak performance, enough electricity to supply the needs of a city of 400,000, or Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Holland, Zeeland, Kalamazoo, and Benton Harbor combined. The plant would employ 1,500 persons at peak periods. The new unit would burn coal with less than one percent sulfur content and would be equipped with electrostatic precipitators to remove ash particles from its smokestack gases. It was scheduled for initial production in late 1967.

**1967 MATERIAL CONTAINERS CORP. [1967-?]**

Material Containers started in Muskegon in February 1967 as a two-man operation making engine saddles for Continental Motors of Muskegon. Located at 17360 Hayes Road in Grand Haven Township since February 1968, the firm added a small sawmill for making pallet boxes for such products as pickles and apples. The owners were Tom Haan and Gary Timmer. Timmer also was President of Wood Edge, Inc., located at 220 Fifth Street in Ferrysburg.

**1967 MURPHY OIL CO. [1967-?]**

The Murphy Oil terminal was located on the John Yonkers property [17880 North Shore Road], just west of Verplank Coal & Dock Company. Murphy Oil Company's national headquarters were in El Dorado, Arkansas. The company applied for a federal permit to construct an "I" shaped pier extending 90 feet towards the river, with protective clusters of piling.

**1967 ATLAS SUPPLY [1967-?]**

Atlas Supply, which started in Muskegon, opened a Grand Haven salesroom in 1967 with three employees. The company specialized in the sale of woodworking tools and supplies. It was located at 1050 Jackson Street.

**1967 WOOD EDGE, INC. [@1967-?]**

Gary Timmer was president of Wood Edge, Inc., located at 220 Fifth Street in Ferrysburg, and Materials Containers Corporation at 17360 Hayes Street in Grand Haven Township.

**1968 DEARBORN GLOVE MFG. CO. [1968-1970]**

On August 7, 1968 the *Grand Haven Tribune* reported that the Dearborn Glove Manufacturing Company planned to open a Grand Haven division at 16 Franklin, with an initial employment of 15, to manufacture gloves, sleeves, aprons, and other industrial lines. On March 18, 1970 the company announced plans to close at the end of the month.

**1968 RAY'S QUALITY WELDING [1968-present]**

Edward Suchecki started a welding operation in 1968 at 1640 Marion. Later the business was owned by his son, Ray Suchecki, who by 1971 was operating it as Ray's Quality Welding. Ed Suchecki had been employed at Oldberg Manufacturing as a forklift driver before going into this business.

**1968 CAMSHAFT SPECIALTIES/WEYBURN-BARTEL/FEDERAL MOGUL CAMSHAFT [1968-present]**

Camshaft Specialties started business rebuilding equipment at the site of Johnston Gravel in March 1968, moved to the southwest corner of Lake Michigan Drive [M-45] and U.S. 31 in November 1968, and began production in March 1969. It was a producer of high-performance



cams. The history of Weyburn involved a number of acquisitions. The foundation of the Company was Weyburn Engineering Ltd., formed in 1913 and located in Elstead, Surrey, England. In 1975 and 1976, Weyburn management acquired a number of small independent camshaft manufacturing plants to satisfy customer demand, including: Hortsman Camshafts, Ltd., an acquisition that provided needed capacity in the United Kingdom market for diesel camshafts; Creefield Blackstock, Ltd., another U.K. acquisition that provided expansion into a new product line, specifically gears and shafts for power train applications to the U. K. automotive industry; Camshafts Specialties, Inc. an American acquisition that provided a foothold in the fast growing North American for O.E.M.[Original Equipment Market] and after-market camshafts; and Ewald Bartel & Co. a German acquisition that provided further capacity and market potential related to heavy camshafts for commercial, industrial, and marine engine applications on the European continent. Carborundum acquired Weyburn in 1977, and Kennecott acquired Carborundum in 1978. Worldwide, Weyburn-Bartel had 346,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space and employed over 1,000 people. In more recent years the company was acquired by Federal Mogul Camshaft.

**1969 CARLON METER CO. INC.** [1969-present]

Carlton, a manufacturer of water meters, originally was located at 1401 Fulton, Grand Haven. It later moved to 715 Robbins Road and then to 1710 Eaton. In 1970 Carlton became a division of JSJ Corporation. Officers were Donald A. Johnson, President, and Paul D. Lutz, Vice President.

**1969 MODERN METHODS MFG.** [1969-present]

Located at 1417 Kooiman in Grand Haven, Modern Methods started fabricating and machining in 1969. George Verduin was President, William M. Creason, Vice President and Secretary, and James E. Teunis, Treasurer.

**1969 GRAND HAVEN GASKET CO.** [1969-present]

Located at 1527 Marion Street, Grand Haven, Grand Haven Gasket began in 1969 to manufacture gaskets, roll sheets, all types of gaskets and die-cut parts. Edward Suchecki was owner and President. The company later relocated to 1701 Eaton Drive.

**1969 HOPPE PHARMACEUTICAL CORP.** [1969-1975]

Started on January 12, 1969, at 1634 Marion Street in Grand Haven, Hoppe Pharmaceutical produced vitamins, antacids, and fluoride tablets. The company did not market under its own name but engaged in what is known as “private label work” for larger companies. It was located at 1634 Marion in Grand Haven. The company’s founder, Duane K. Hoppe, formerly of Grand Rapids and Muskegon, died of accidental causes at Indian Rocks Beach, Florida in 1975.

**1969 PEOPLES SAVINGS ASSOC.** [1969-?]

Peoples Savings was located at 15 South Second Street until the home office in Benton Harbor closed the Grand Haven branch. In the late 1970s David Forner was Manager. Grand Haven Bank later moved into the building before it relocated to a new structure at the northwest corner of Washington and Fourth Streets in 2000.

**1969 NORTH OTTAWA COUNCIL ON AGING** [1969-present]

The North Ottawa Council on Aging was incorporated on September 4, 1969, the culmination of work done by an exploratory committee, consisting of Alice Klein Horseman and others. Horseman became the first Executive Director of the Council, a post she held for 15 years. Later directors were Gail Ringelberg and Brigit Lewis. The Grand Haven Presbyterian Church provided space for the Council, which opened for business in January 1970. The Council’s mission was to serve area citizens 60 or older with recreational activities, short-term counseling, arts and crafts, and educational programs that would enhance all aspects of their lives. The budget for the first

year was \$2,000; by 1999 it had grown to \$350,000. The Council later moved to the former fire station at 20 North Fifth. By 2009 its programs included in-home services, response to emergencies, prescription and income tax assistance, recreational and educational programs, and meals ready to serve five days a week.

**1970 PORTFOLIO SHOP/ GUILD OF SHAKER CRAFTS [1970-@1988]**

Located at 401 West Savidge Street in Spring Lake, Kenneth Kammeraad, and two other area men incorporated Portfolio Shop in 1970. Known as the Portfolio Shop Guild of Shaker Craft Inc., the company reproduced Shaker furniture, which dated from the early years of our country's independence until the times of the Civil War. It later moved to 206 South Jackson in Spring Lake. The business was owned by Kenneth and Betty Kammeraad. Betty managed the shop.

**1970 DARCO INDUSTRIES [1970-?]**

Lee E. Philport, owner of Darco Industries, announced on January 23, 1970 that he had secured a longtime lease on the former Trico manufacturing building at 536 [520] Oak Street in Ferrysburg. Trico had moved to 14046 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township. Monte Sales was president of Trico, a metal-stamping company. Darco Industries had several long-running contracts to machine automotive replacement parts. The company also had orders for production drilling and grinding.

**1970 AMERICAN ELECTRIC [1970-?]**

American Electric, which started in 1970, employed 125 people.

**1970 NUWAY INDUSTRIAL PLATING & MACHINE [1970-?]**

Nuway Industrial, which started business in 1970 at 120 Elliott Street in Grand Haven, specialized in surface coatings, sprayed metalized coating, and fused bonding.

**1970 ELASTODYNE, INC. [1970-?]**

Established in 1970 at 203 Cutler Street in Spring Lake, Elastodyne manufactured high voltage connectors. The firm employed 150. The parent company was F. L. Blackburn of St. Louis, Missouri. About 1980 Thomas S. Ruddy was General Manager and Dale W. Buyce was Manager.

**1970 JSJ [1970-present]**

JSJ was formed by merging five local manufacturing companies. Each firm retained its independence and personality. The companies that officially merged in the autumn of 1970 to form the JSJ Corporation were Grand Haven Brass Foundry, Grand Haven Stamped Products, Dake, Michigan Plastics, and Carlon Meter Company. The original board of directors consisted of E. Vincent Erickson, retired Senior Vice President at Gardner-Denver Corp.; Alvin E. Jacobson I, Chairman, Grand Haven Brass Foundry; Alvin E. Jacobson II, President, Grand Haven Brass Foundry; David I Jacobson, President, Carlon Meter Company; and Charles N. Jacobson, Secretary-Treasurer, Dake Corporation.

**1970 MERIDIAN, INC. [1970-present]**

When it was incorporated on March 6, 1970, Meridian employed seven people. The new corporation planned to occupy the former Harbor Industries facilities at 1 Harbor Avenue in Grand Haven. Announcing formation of the corporation were Robert Bennett, Chairman, and Reno Offringa, President, along with Robert Fuller, President of Star Industries, Inc. Meridian acquired all of the Star Industries proprietary product lines, which included Starline Metal office furniture and Class-Master school equipment. Also Meridian acquired Arneleo, Inc. of Spring Lake. In 1974 Meridian announced it was moving to Norton Shores and a new 40,000 square foot facility costing approximately \$500,000. It would employ 50 persons. By 1988 Meridian Inc.,

housed at 18558 171<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Spring Lake Township Industrial Park, consisted of 257,000 square feet of manufacturing space and 8,000 square feet of office space at its metal fabrication plant. A 7,000 square foot office addition was later completed. Plant B, the research building, consisted of 7,000 square feet of plant and 1,500 sq. ft. of office space. The company manufactured 350 different end products, but they were all a form of metal case goods, including lateral and vertical files, desks, and storage cases. Meridian was acquired by Herman Miller, Inc., of Zeeland, in 1990. In 1997 Meridian employed more than 830 people.

**1970 R. C. WOOD PRODUCTS [1970-present]**

Located at 13776 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Grand Haven Township, R. C. Wood Products manufactured pallets and skids.

**1971 CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH [1971-2010]**

Christ Community Church grew out of the First Reformed Church of Spring Lake, founded on March 20, 1870. In 1938, a new sanctuary at 225 East Exchange was completed at a cost of \$41,000, with \$25,000 of that amount already in the building fund. The remainder was paid off by 1945. The stainedglass windows were gifts from members in memory of their loved ones. The new building included a new organ. This building later became the parlor of Christ Community Church. In 1949 a parsonage was built by members John Kruizenaga, Gerrit Bottema, and Henry Kammen. In 1958 an educational wing was added to the church, followed by a new sanctuary in 1978, and an administrative wing, pastoral suite, classrooms, library, and chapel in 1990. In 1971 the name of the church was changed to Christ Community. In 2010 the church moved to 421 Columbus Street in Grand Haven and re-opened with the name C3Exchange.

**1971 CROWN TOOL CO. [1971-?]**

Fred King started Crown Tool at 301 West Savidge in Spring Lake in 1971. King sold the business to his nephew, Bob King, and Gerald Benson.

**1971 DI-X-CELL TOOL INDUSTRIES, INC. [1971-present]**

The Di-X-Cell Company, located at 1533 Marion in Grand Haven, bought Fred King's Tool & Die Company. The company later moved to 1604 Marion. Richard Vander Stel was president and his son, also named Richard Vander Stel, was Vice President of this die-making company., Patricia Vander Stel, the younger man's wife, was Secretary.

**1971 RAVEN PRINTING, INC. [1971-?]**

Raven Printing, located at 317 South Beechtree, started in 1971 with Paul Verseput as Sales Manager. Verseput had moved to Grand Haven in 1965 as an employee of the Pippel-Patterson Printing Company. Raven, established by Ricks and John Bowery, specialized in book publishing and printed more than 50 books and a total of over a quarter million copies, mainly hard cover menus and other specialized printing jobs.

**1971 ALLIED SHEET METAL [1971-?]**

Allied Sheet Metal, owned by Milton Hamstra, was located at 220 South Beechtree Street in Grand Haven. The company started in 1971 to manufacture heating and air conditioning, ventilating, and custom sheet metal work.

**1971 GRAND HAVEN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION [1971-present]**

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation started in 1971 when 12 local businessmen each contributed \$100 to get it underway. One of the 12, Ellworth Vincent "Vin" Erickson, was elected the foundation's first president. Around 1985 the Foundation moved its headquarters to One South Harbor. It was governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees and managed by an

Executive Director, most recently Holly Johnson. The foundation's assets grew to \$16 million in 1998 and to \$30 million by 2003. The Loutit Foundation in 2011 dissolved and moved its assets of \$2,500,000 to the GHACF. In 2014 the Foundation made grants totaling 3.8 million dollars. Part of its mission was to make grants that benefit local youth.

**1971 MARÜSHKA/MICHIGAN RAG CO. [1971-present]**

In 1971 Richard Sweet resigned from his position as art teacher in the Grand Haven public schools and started a design and silk-screen textile manufacturing business in Grand Rapids, with designers Mary and Victor Krawczyk as his partners. Dick had a Master of Fine Arts from Michigan State University, and his wife was a librarian in the Grand Haven school system. In honor of his wife, he named the enterprise Marüşka, a Polish nickname for Mary. In the beginning, Marüşka printed graphic art on fabric for public buildings and offices. Companies such as Structural Concepts, Haworth, and Steelcase selected Marüşka to decorate their office partition systems. After the Krawczyks left the business, Sweet in 1973 moved his shop from Grand Rapids to 620 East Savidge in Spring Lake and opened a retail outlet at 311 South Harbor, where Snug Harbor Restaurant is now located. Emphasis shifted from sales to corporate clients to individual buyers. Sweet opened a retail gallery at 17771 West Spring Lake Road, next to the company's manufacturing facility, and then in 1984 moved from that location to 117-123 Washington Street. The firm continued to produce screen prints and wall décor, but in the 1980s added serigraphs to its inventory. Michigan Rag Company was formed in 1985, and by 1990 the company's production was focused primarily on apparel. In 1985 Randy Smith of Grand Haven became Sweet's partner. Smith, a former student of Sweet's, had been with the company since 1976, first working as a traveling salesman for the company and expanding Marüşka's geographic coverage. When Sweet retired in 2004, Smith bought out his interest and became sole owner. At one time the company employed 45 workers. For a while the firm also used the third floor of the former Story & Clark building as a printmaking facility. In June 2021 the Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened an exhibit acknowledging Marüşka's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**1972 ALLES TIRE CO. [1972-present]**

Founded by Mike Alles in 1972, Alles Tire Company was located at 301 South Beechtree in a building erected around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and expanded in 1946 to warehouse automobiles. In 1998 Alles opened an outlet in Spring Lake, which was leveled by the May 31, 1998 windstorm. Alles quickly built a new place of business farther east at 14964 Cleveland, which opened in early 1999.

**1972 METAL-WOOD CORP. [1972-?]**

Metal-Wood, which started in 1972, specialized in finger-jointed lumber production. Finger jointing was a process whereby short pieces of lumber were joined and glued together to produce longer boards free of defects. The finger-jointed lumber was ideal for applications in the cabinet and building industry. Officers were H. D. Mulder of Grand Rapids, and Claude A. Van Coevering of Grand Haven. In 1974 a seven-hour blaze almost totally destroyed the wood remanufacturing company located at 17360 Hayes Road in Grand Haven Township. Damage estimates were put at least at \$150,000.

**1972 NON-FERROUS CAST ALLOYS [1972-present]**

Non-Ferrous Cast Alloys was located at 18750 Trimble Court in Spring Lake Township, starting in 1972. In 1998 the company moved to Norton Shores. Randy Pellegrom was Plant Manager. The company cast brass and aluminum fixtures.

**1972 SCHOOL ZONE PUBLISHING [1972-present]**

Joan and James Hoffman started School Zone Publishing in 1972 to produce school materials in Grand Rapids. The business moved to 1819 Industrial Park Drive in Grand Haven Township in February 1980.

**1972 STRUCTURAL CONCEPTS [1972-present]**

James A. Doss founded Structural Concepts in 1972. He was president of the company, and John J. Noonan was vice president and chief operating officer. It manufactures a variety of products for businesses, healthcare and educational organizations, and supermarkets. The company is located at 17237 Van Wagoner Road in Ferrysburg.

**1973 K & G TOOL CO. [1973-present]**

Located at 17338 Hayes Street in Grand Haven Township, K & G Tool started in 1973 to build custom machinery, gauges, fixtures, and CNC machinery. Kurt Gillespie was the owner.

**1973 JELTEMA ELECTRIC, INC. [1973-?]**

In March 1973 James V. Jeltema came to this area from Grand Rapids, where he had been in business as a co-partner, and purchased the former Dirkse Electric Company, which he renamed Jeltema Electric. He also had 14 years' experience in electronics. The firm became incorporated after being in this area for nine months. It had two business functions, industrial maintenance and service and building electrical panels. It was located at 1101 Columbus Street in Grand Haven. James was president of the firm and his wife, Marjorie, was secretary-treasurer.

**1973 COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATIONS [1973-present]**

The statewide headquarters for the Council of Michigan Foundations opened at 18 North Fifth Street in Grand Haven in 1973. About 1985 it relocated to One South Harbor. Local resident Dorothy Johnson was its President. The foundation was governed by a 27-member Board of Trustees, all associated with foundations from across Michigan. By 1999 the combined assets of the 1,400 member foundations had grown from \$3 billion in the mid-1970s to \$15 billion. 435 community, corporate, and private foundations were members of CMF, including the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

**1973 TRI-CAST, INC. [1973-2005]**

Jack Fortenbacher started Tri-Cast, Inc. in 1973 with headquarters at 16960 148<sup>th</sup> Street in Spring Lake Township. The factory was across the street at 17045 148<sup>th</sup>. The company produced turbo-charged compressor housings for diesel engines. Among its principal clients were BorgWarner Turbo Systems, John Deere, and Caterpillar. President Brad Fortenbacher, son of the founder, announced the company closed its doors on February 18, 2005.

**1972 NICK'S ZIEBART/ZIEBART AUTO TRUCK RUST PROOFING/ZIEBART TIDY CAR UHAUL [1973-present]**

Nick Van Ryswyk opened Ziebart Auto Truck Rust Proofing at 116 Christman in November 1973. Fred J. La Fontaine later took over the business and added Tidy Car. Working in the shop with him was Dennis Zimmer, who became a partner in 1981 and sole owner a few years later. Zimmer added U-Haul in 1998.

**1974 SHAPE CORPORATION [1974-present]**

Shape started production with three employees in May 1974, a month after its founding. It then was located in a 14,400 square foot building at 701 West Second Street in Ferrysburg, behind the Verplank Trucking Co. The original owners were Robert Currier I, Ron Kolkema, Midge Verplank, Bill Stevenson, Gary Verplank, and Stuart Pearson. The company's first year's sales totaled \$14,500. The first significant order came from Haworth Corporation in Holland to make

metal shelves. Shape convinced the Haworth management that the relatively new roll forming technology would save money without compromising quality. Before long other major companies, such as Herman Miller, and Westinghouse, began using Shape. In 1977 Peter Sturrus joined the company as Chief Engineer. When Stevenson and Pearson departed in 1978, Gary Verplank became President and Chief Executive Officer. In July 1978 the company started construction of a 30,500 square foot building at 1900 Hayes in Grand Haven Township and were able to move in by the end of the year. Within two years another 36,000 square feet were added. In the mid-1980s the company started producing half Chrysler's production needs for swept bumper beams used on the new Chrysler mini-vans, and within a year Shape was meeting all of Chrysler's production demands for that product. In 1985 the Grand Haven Association of Commerce and Industry recognized Shape as the Business of the Year. About the same time another 57,000 square feet were added to the Hayes complex. The next year the first of several spin-offs occurred, beginning with Finish Corporation. It started painting items for the furniture and automotive industries and became a leader in electrostatic wet spray and autophoretic painting. Within a few months Light Corporation started production in response to a request from Westinghouse for task and ambient lights. The three plants, Shape, Finish, and Light, were each independently operated, but "still family." In 1987 Sturrus took over as Shape's President.

In 1990 the company won the Chrysler award for Quality Excellence. Two years later Shape purchased a building across the street at 1835 Hayes, recently vacated by Ardyne, and expanded it to 180,000 square feet. In 1993 another company, Track Corporation, was founded to produce six- and eight-way seat adjusters to accommodate the new technology for integrated restraint seat belts. Track was housed at 1900 Industrial Drive in Grand Haven Township. In 1996 Light Corporation moved into a new plant on the southeast corner of Comstock and 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The same year Shape acquired BR Metal Products in Spring Lake, an automotive stamping firm, and an interest in Pliant Plastics in Norton Shores, a plastic injection molding company. Biosolutions was founded in 1997 to produce biodegradable coolants, cutting fluids, and cleaning products. Also in 1997 Shape began construction of another new plant, this one at 14600 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, which upon completion housed the DaimlerChrysler and International businesses. This site had 350,000 square feet of manufacturing space. In January 1998 the company separated into "Business Units," including Diversified Products for the office furniture industry and DaimlerChrysler, GM, and International for automotive products. The automotive business expanded to overseas markets, including Asia and Europe. The corporation planned to build a manufacturing plant in Germany in 2002. In 2000, a new subsidiary, named NetShape, was founded to produce energy absorbers to be mounted on the steel bumper beams that Shape produced. NetShape used large machines to mold Xenoy [registered trademark] resin, obtained from GM Plastics, into custom designs. The Shape family of companies in 2000 employed 1,400 associates. Officers that year were Gary Verplank, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Midge Verplank, Treasurer; Peter Sturrus, Vice Chairman; Tom De Voursney, President; Budd Brink, Vice President of Finance; Bob Currier II, Vice President of Operations; and Doug Peterson, Vice President of Human Resources.

**1974 DYKHOUSE BROS./MIDWEST CONCRETE PIPE CO. [1974-?]**

In 1974 William and Donald Dykhouse founded Dykhouse Brothers, a company of pipeline installers located at 445 and 525 North Ferry Street in Grand Haven. William was President of the company.

**1974 ENVIRONAIR, INC. [1974-?]**

Under Frank E. Wilson, President, Environair started in 1974 to make available a variety of services to the building trades in West Michigan. Wilson operated from his home at 301 Buchanan in Spring Lake. The company's primary office was in Grand Rapids.

**1974 GRAND VALLEY REDI-MIX [1974-?]**

After taking over as President of Grand Valley Redi-Mix in 1974, Robert Land expanded concrete production from one to six plants, including one in Grand Haven. The company was based in Grand Rapids. On August 25, 1988 Land was elected to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Concrete Association.

**1974 BUILDERS FLOOR COVERING [1974-present]**

Builders Floor Covering, which carried carpet, vinyl, ceramic, hardwood, and laminate flooring, opened in 1974. It was located at 445 North Ferry in Grand Haven.

**1974 SOS ENGINEERING, INC. [1974-present]**

SOS Engineering was started by David Suchecki in 1974 at 1640 Marion. He later relocated the company to 1901 Hayes. His wife, Dawn, was Secretary. The tool and die business had 17 employees by 2002, including the founder's son, Brett, who was Vice President.

**1974 COROTECH, INC. [1974-present]**

William Alt, an aeronautical engineer, started CoroTech in 1974, shortly after his retirement from the Brunswick Corporation. It was located at 17181 Taft Road in Spring Lake Township.

**1974 ECONAWAY ABRASIVES [1974-present]**

Donald S. Mackenzie started Econaway Abrasives at 747 Grant in 1974. The business continued at the same location after his retirement in 1996.

**1974 KEUR ASSOCIATES/KEUR INDUSTRIES [1974-to present]**

Lawrence Peter Keur started Keur Associates in 1974. It was located at 515 South Beacon Boulevard in Grand Haven. The company manufactured industrial, educational, and hospital equipment. Keur was located at 1320 Kooiman in Grand Haven in 1984 and later moved to 18784 174<sup>th</sup> Street in Spring Lake Township. The name of the business was changed to Keur Industries, a manufacturer of "laboratory equipment and supplies."

**1975 SIR MASTER SYSTEMS [1975-?]**

Sir Master Systems employed 35 persons when it started in 1975 and was gone within a short time.

**1975 OLECO, INC. [1975-present]**

The Oleco firm, which opened in 1975, was located first at 919 West Savidge and then at 18688 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Spring Lake. It later moved to 18683 Trimble Court in Spring Lake Township.

**1975 CONTOUR ROLL CO. [1975-2000]**

Timothy Gutowski founded Contour Roll in 1975 as a maker of roll form tooling. Soon Contour was one of the industry leaders in roll form technology, designing and manufacturing various styles of roll forming equipment and pneumatic presses. It had 62 employees at its peak. First located at 901 West Savidge in Spring Lake, the company later moved to 1700 Air Park Drive, Contour Roll developed a new bumper line for the auto industry and introduced a new light duty line. Unable to find a buyer for the business, Gutowski closed it in March 2000. Gutowski died on May 26, 2000 from injuries suffered in a farm-tractor accident in Lake County, Michigan, five days earlier.

**1975 JOHN KISTLER & ASSOCIATES, INC. [1975-1978]**

John Kistler & Associates, a company of civil engineers, land surveyors, and community planning experts, started business in 1975. On April 12, 1978 it was acquired by BPS

Corporation, a West Chester, Pennsylvania firm specializing in the utilization and disposition of wastewater solids. Kistler's office was located at 302 South Beechtree in Grand Haven when it opened for business.

**1975 MOSER DRY FLOWER BARN [1975-2000]**

Reini Moser, a native of The Netherlands, moved to the Spring Lake area in 1968. Not long after settling in her new surroundings, Moser opened a landscape design business that relied on indigenous plants and natural designs. She also began selling dried flowers at arts and craft shows, a hobby that she brought with her from her native country. In 1975 she opened a dry flower shop in the breezeway of her home at 14065 Cleveland. She and her husband, John Moser, grew the plants and dried them. That enterprise was taken over by a company called Hortec, located at 14109 Cleveland. The success of the dry flower business made it necessary for the Mosers to build a new home at their property on Cleveland and convert the original house to the "Dry Flower Barn." Moser retired in late December 2000 and closed the business.

**1975 BEKINS APPLIANCES/BEKINS AUDIO/VIDEO & APPLIANCE, INC. [1975-present]**

Harvey and Barbara Bekins began an appliance repair business from their house at 1726 Woodlawn in 1975, using the business name Bekins Appliance Service. On November 1 seven years later, they moved the business to 735 Washington in Grand Haven and added an appliance sales department. Later their son Scott took over the business, while Harvey Bekins continued with the appliance repair department.

**1975 DIAL-A-RIDE/HARBOR TRANSIT [1975-present]**

Dial-a-Ride, later renamed Harbor Transit, began in 1975 to serve the transportation needs of Northwest Ottawa County. By the time of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2000, the fleet had served an estimated 4.1 million riders and traveled more than 9.8 million miles. The system also served senior housing developments and a few businesses in Spring Lake Township. Harbor Transit was funded through state and federal grants, local contributions, fares, and contractual agreements. Julie Bildner, who started with the organization at its inception as a dispatcher, was named transportation director in 1997. The system began with four converted Dodge vans, which made pick-ups and drop-offs upon request, and charged 25 cents for its services. The system continued to be an on-demand service. By 2000 Harbor Transit operated 15 buses and three trolleys and had 24 employees. The office also served as the local agent for the Greyhound bus line. The name was changed to Harbor Transit in 1982. In an effort to increase downtown business and to transport tourists throughout the city, special summer-time routes were established in 1982 when Grand Haven's Central Business District Development Authority bought a golf cart that could carry eight passengers. The seasonal service at first was called Harbor Tram. After its first successful year, the Authority in 1983 bought its first bus built to look like a streetcar and renamed the service Harbor Trolley. It carried 30,000 passengers that summer. Transit's offices at first were located in a corner at the fire chief's office at 18 North Fifth Street, and the buses operated from the city's public works garage on Jackson Street. In 1982 the agency moved to 440 North Ferry Street, which was expanded in 1992 to a 26,000 square foot facility including two maintenance bays, a wash bay, vehicle storage, and a new lobby. In 1995 the system began converting its vehicles to propane fuel, and by the time of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary only four diesel buses remained in service.



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### The Author

Wallace Ewing wrote and published *Northwest Ottawa County, An Encyclopedia of History* in 1999. During the ensuing twenty-five years, he regularly updated the 1500-page encyclopedia that consists of

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Ewing is the author of over thirty books, most of them topics related to the history of Northwest Ottawa County. His book *Footprints* earned a Historical Society of Michigan 2017 Book Award. His articles and periodicals have appeared in several publications, including the *Grand Haven Tribune* and *Michigan History* magazine. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum twice named him Historian of the Year and selected him for the Dr. David Seibold Outstanding Leadership Award. He was the recipient of the Grand Valley University Gordon Olson Lifetime Contribution to Local History award, and he was honored with a national Excellence in History Preservation award from Daughters of the American Revolution.

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