

School days?

They began here in summer of 1865

The Ludington school system is presently in the midst of a more than \$100 million expansion program that brought a new elementary school for all grades, renovations and expansion at the secondary school complex and upgrades at the athletic facilities at Oriole Field.

When the City of Ludington was celebrating its 100th birthday, Ludington Area Schools was in the middle of a \$1.5 million project to add a swimming pool and auditorium as well as additions to Hamlin, Summit and Franklin elementary schools.

In 1973, Ludington Area Schools witnessed construction and progress that spanned 20 years. Expansion in local school facilities has progressed much since construction was resumed in 1953 after being dormant for almost 67 years. Since 1953, school construction has included the present senior high (originally built as a junior high), Franklin, Lakeview, Pere Marquette elementary schools and what was the present junior high.

Ludington has come a long way

in providing public education for its children since the Pere Marquette School District was organized on Nov. 1, 1864. It was nearly a year later in the summer of 1865 that the first formal classes were taught here. Miss Sarah Melendy taught that first class and she did it at a school housed in a small, one-room shanty on the property of the Pere Marquette Lumber Company.

School was held only for two months in the summer since most of the older boys were engaged in work in the lumber camps during the winter months. The second term of school was taught by Miss Katie Mitchell in 1866 and the third term in 1867 was taught by Miss Nellie Mills.

The first major change in schools here occurred in 1867 when a larger school was constructed on the corner of Ludington Ave. and James St. It was used as a central school until 1880. Miss Mary Mills was the first principal and it was under her reign that the first full school year was begun in

February of 1868.

School building did not really get started until 1875 when Prof. John N. Foster came to Ludington as superintendent of schools. As the town expanded the need for schools in various locations throughout the city became more evident and two small schools were built in the First Ward and the Fourth Ward.

In 1882, the Second Ward school, in what would become Longfellow school was constructed at a cost of \$10,000. It was the first permanent building to be used as a school and constructed especially for that purpose. For a number of years this building was known as Central School and was also used as the high school.

The next building was the Third Ward school, called Emerson School built in 1883. In 1885-86 Lakeview School was built to accommodate 174 youngsters in four classrooms.

The fourth building was Pere Marquette School in the Fourth Ward built in 1886. Then the cen-

tral high school was constructed (the present Foster School) with an addition built in 1925.

It is at this point in history that no new construction took place for another 67 years. In 1950, the board of education began plans for construction of a new high school and conversion of the present high school into a junior high school. They also wished to do repairs and remodeling at Longfellow, Pere Marquette, Lakeview and Foster schools.

But these original plans did not materialize. In November of 1951 voters approved a bond issue to build a new junior high school building on Washington Avenue. This building was ready for some students to occupy in September of 1953 with the remaining students moving in early 1954. In the meantime the school board decided to establish a new system of grades with separation between grades K-6 and three grades each for the junior high and senior high.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE F7



Becoming the Daily News

County's oldest continuing business took 'Ludington Daily News' name in 1902 after mergers

BY PAUL S. PETERSON
LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

For 150 years, the Ludington Daily News — under one name or another — has been chronicling the comings and goings of our community; the good and the bad, births and deaths, tragedies and celebrations. All of it makes the news an on-going history of our area.

Ludington's original newspaper — then called the Mason County Record — printed its first issue on a Tuesday in 1867 under the direction of George W. Clayton.

Through mergers of several weekly and daily papers — including the Record, the Daily Sun and the Daily Mail — the paper was reformed as the Ludington Daily News in 1902, when it also moved into its current home at the corner of Rath Avenue and Court Street.

It took James Ludington, the man for whom this city was named, to recognize that a local newspaper was needed to accomplish two major goals — getting the county seat moved, and changing the village's name from Pere Marquette to Ludington. Each would require a major public relations effort.

Ludington's main business rival was Charles Mears, whose Lincoln village is now Epworth and Lincoln Hills Golf Club.

Ludington sailed to Milwaukee and contacted a printer friend who recommended Clayton for the newspaper job. Clayton, a lean, tall Yankee veteran of the Civil War, built a house on the northwest corner of Ferry and Court streets and opened the Mason County Record.

The date was Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1867, and the Record started an unbroken lineage that became the Ludington Daily News.

Six years later, in 1873, a second weekly, the Ludington Appeal, was started by Will B. Cole from Pontiac. For nearly a decade the two newspapers — the solidly Republican Record and the solidly Democratic Appeal — traded barbs and insults that today would border on libel.

Then a third weekly, the Ludington Democrat, was started by E.W. Marsh. In the span of 10 years there were three weekly newspapers operating simultaneously in Ludington.

But it wasn't until 1892 when the first daily newspaper appeared here. It was started by a daily newspaper publisher in Manistee, who hired an itinerant newsman to run the paper. He was App Smith, a veteran of the Civil War — on the Confederate side.

In the spring of 1892 the city had its first daily newspaper, the Daily Mail.

The Smiths published the newspaper for nine years before selling it to a man who owned a canning company in Ludington, but the Daily Mail soon gave way to a second newspaper — George S. Luce's Daily Sun.



The printing offices of the Mason County Record were also located at the corner of Rath Avenue and Court Street. The paper kept that name until 1902, when a consolidation of several newspapers became the Ludington Daily News.



Workers make repairs to the Ludington Daily News offices, located at the intersection of Rath Avenue and Court Street.

Through mergers and buyouts, the two dailies finally joined forces in 1902 and the name of the paper was changed to the Ludington Daily News. A new two-story building was constructed on the corner of Rath Avenue and Court Street, the same location where the present Daily News still stands today.

The paper rolled along with Marsh at the helm until 1911, when a well-known Ludington banker and attorney, Charles G. Wing, bought the Daily News.

Wing was publisher and editor for four years. Then he hired a very robust edi-

tor who also owned half the paper. He was G.H.D. Sutherland, a man who one longtime employee said thundered his way around the newsroom as he edited reporters' copy.

It was during Sutherland's ownership that the Daily News became a truly well-rounded newspaper. Until then, all news was from the area, or culled from metro newspapers.

Sutherland joined the Associated Press to provide state, national and international news. He also added AP wire photos, which were delivered daily by mail.

Sutherland died in 1931.

His estate oversaw the paper for two years before it was sold to J.A. McFarland in 1934. He held it only five years before selling to Harold P. Furstenau in 1939.

Furstenau made major changes, not only in the way the newspaper was printed, but in the building itself.

For some years, smaller newspapers had known that off-set presses were the way to go for economy and a better product. It took convincing, but Furstenau finally agreed, and the Daily News did away with "hot type" in favor of off-set printing, which re-

quired a huge camera and many accessories.

He also demolished the newsroom, ad department and front office area. In their place is what we see today.

Failing health forced the Furstenau family to sell the paper, and in December 1986, David R. Jackson bought the Daily News. Jackson's family had a long history of newspaper publishing in Anderson, Indiana.

Jackson was with the Daily News for 26 years; 20 of them as publisher and the last six as president. He was hired by the Harold Furstenau family and negotiated the sale of the company to himself and his siblings.

While under Jackson's lead the company created, developed and later sold West Michigan Directories, which was a telephone directory publisher.

When he bought the Daily News, Jackson had also been publisher of two other small Michigan dailies in Ionia and South Haven. He modernized the Daily News, brought in a sophisticated computer system, bought two area weeklies in Hart and Whitehall and expanded the circulation.

During Jackson's tenure, the newspaper stood out among small daily papers in Michigan and the region, earning seven Michigan Press Association Best Small Newspaper awards.

"No other paper even came close," Jackson said in a 2012 Daily News story about his retirement. "Now people (in the industry) look to Ludington as an example."

Jackson said he'd often bring fellow publishers through the Ludington paper to show them the company's latest improvements, including a state-of-the-art direct-to-plate system and a "four-high" color press addition for the production of the paper. The

changes sped up the printing process, provided more full-color pages in the paper and, in the long run, saved money, Jackson said.

"We weren't afraid of trying new things," he said.

Jackson said times were tough at the newspaper when he arrived. He recalled going without a paycheck when there wasn't enough money to pay his salary.

Eventually, the company's buildings were updated. In the same 2012 retirement story, Jackson recalled sitting in the old Daily News breakroom, which was a dingy cement-block room referred to as "the morgue." Today, the breakroom has a tile floor, kitchen sink, cabinets and refrigerator and is suitable even for interviews when necessary.

In 2012, Community Media Group purchased the Ludington Daily News along with the weekly newspapers, Oceana's Herald-Journal and the White Lake Beacon.

"They are newspaper people," Jackson said at the time of Community Media Group. "They love the news business and that's important to me. They are going to make changes, obviously, but they are committed to putting out good newspapers."

"I didn't want some venture capital firm coming in here," Jackson said. "I think they'll continue to put out a good newspaper."

Jackson said at the time of his retirement that newspapers have an obligation to the community to report fairly and accurately.

During the newspaper's 150th celebration in 2017, Ray McGrew, then the company's current vice president and Ludington Daily News publisher, said the commitment to the community remained intact.

"The leadership of the local newspaper has always been a benefit to the area and will continue to be a strong source of local news and information," McGrew said. "The newspaper has as strong of staff as it has ever had and enjoys providing the needed information for its communities."

Former Managing Editor Patti Klevorn said at the time in 2017 it's the interaction with the community that gives the newspaper its staying power.

"It's difficult to separate one from the other," Klevorn said. "We are part of the community and the community is integral to everything we do."

The connection between the Daily News and the community makes the newspaper's 150th anniversary an event for everyone to celebrate.

"It's an honor to be able to continue to lead local news coverage and a local newspaper into and beyond this milestone," McGrew said.

Today, the Daily News' publisher is Mike Hrycko and the managing editor is David Bossick.

THIS STORY is republished with some editing from the Oct. 26, 2017, edition of the Daily News.

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150TH

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Charles Gordon Wing: Jack of all trades

LDN editor held many local roles

BY JAMES R. JENSEN
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charles Gordon Wing purchased the Ludington Daily News in 1911. He served the newspaper as owner, editor and publisher. He had also owned the Ludington Appeal and Ludington Record, which were weekly newspapers that preceded the Daily News.

The role of newspaperman was but one of many very important roles Wing played in the long history of Ludington. In a 1920 Ludington Daily News article he described his position in the community.

"I was not one of the pioneers, but arrived before their scattered clearings made much impression on the solidity of the primeval forest.... The men are few who have taken a prominent part in the business life of Mason County whom I have not personally known."

Wing's influence on our community was significant during his lifetime and his legacy lives on today in many important but little-known ways. A review of his many roles in Ludington dramatically illustrates the breadth of this influence.

Charles Gordon Wing was born in upstate New York in 1846. He joined the United States Navy during the Civil War and served aboard the USS Cincinnati during the blockade of Mobile Bay by Union forces.

After the war he attended the University of Michigan, earning both a Bachelor of Philosophy degree and a Law degree. After a brief period as a high school principal in Washtenaw County, he was able to use his Navy experience and his newly earned law degree to obtain a position with the federal government.

HARBOR INSPECTOR

Wing arrived in Ludington in April 1873 as the newly appointed Harbor Inspector charged with overseeing the federal funds being used to build the Ludington harbor.



Charles G. and Jennie Wing pose for a photograph with family. C.G. Wing purchased the Ludington Daily News in 1911, and served the newspaper as owner, editor and publisher. This photograph was originally published in "Manierre Dawson: Inventions of the Mind," by Sharon Bluhm.

He recognized that he had little knowledge of the construction of harbors.

Wing later described this job as, "...a position I doubted my experience for, but accepted because it gave me four dollars per day and the chance to marry... Miss Jennie Poole of Sharon, Mich."

He did eventually learn enough about harbors to start a successful partnership with Duncan Dewar. That firm did work on many harbors in West Michigan from 1882 to 1884.

ATTORNEY

Eventually the Ludington harbor was built, but the federal money was not as plenti-

ful and it was time for Wing to start his law practice. He did so in October 1873.

His partners in his law practice included several early Ludington attorneys, including H. M. Newcomb, Marshall D. Ewell and J. B. McMahon. In 1920, Wing recalled that he and his first partner had received this welcome from the Ludington Appeal: "Two more lawyers: What is to become of us?"

One wonders if Wing had this quote in mind when he later purchased the Ludington Appeal newspaper.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Wing was very active in

the Ludington community. He served as vice president of the library board and later sold the land for the building of the current Ludington Library.

He organized a local literary society, was active with his wife in the Ludington History Club, served as superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school and was a trustee of the National Union, an insurance order founded in Ludington in 1890. He was also very active in the local Republican Party.

JUDGE

In 1875, Wing's career took another turn when he was appointed as a probate judge

in Mason County by Gov. John J. Bagley. While Wing only served for a few years in this position, he was frequently referred to as Judge Wing during the rest of his lifetime.

FARMER

Wing purchased significant acreage throughout Mason County, including a 120-acre farm just east of Ludington on which he raised crops and kept his seven children busy. That farm was eventually sold by his son to Mason County and is now the site of the Mason County Airport and Western Michigan Fairgrounds. Wing was active in many local and state agricultural organizations and in the opinion of many farmers, "...did more to promote agriculture than any other man in Mason County."

BANKER

In 1901, Wing joined with the Cartier family and formed the Ludington State Bank. That bank, which originally stood on the southwest corner of Ludington Avenue and James Street, burned to the ground in 1913.

Wing built the new Ludington State Bank building on the northwest corner of James Street and Loomis Street. That second building is now vacant but remains an iconic structure in Ludington.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPER

Wing was very active in promoting Ludington as a resort destination and a manufacturing center. At one time, he owned and planned to develop significant portions of both of what are now Stearns Park and Rotary Park in Ludington.

In 1892, Wing and Justus Stearns spearheaded the formation of the Citizens Development Company to bring jobs to Ludington during an international economic recession. Their efforts led to the building of new factories in the Manufacturer's Addition on the north side of Ludington. Wing was also instrumen-

tal in the development of the Ludington Water Supply Company; a company he later sold to the city.

NEWSPAPERMAN

Wing and his family played an active role during his ownership of the Ludington Daily News and its predecessor newspapers. His daughter, Jessie H. Wing, is listed as the editor of the Ludington Appeal in the 1900 Ludington City Directory. Wing served as publisher-editor for the first four years of his ownership of the Ludington Daily News.

A 1954 article in the Ludington Daily News written by Lenore Williams describes Wing's views about newspapers:

"Mr. Wing ranked the work of the newspaper man or woman with the professions of law, medicine and the ministry. He impressed upon the members of his staff the importance of their obligation to give their readers a true and unbiased picture of all happenings of news interest and cautioned them of the influence, for good or evil, the newspaper often wields on the community."

Wing died on Nov. 12, 1920, shortly after completing a history of the Ludington area. That history, titled "Mason County: A Tale of the Early Times," was published as a series in the Ludington Daily News in October 1920 and is a fitting tribute to a man with such strong ties to the Ludington community and the Ludington Daily News.

Two days after his death, E. O. McLean wrote this about Wing in the Ludington Sunday Morning News: "Throughout his life Mr. Wing shrank from praise and publicity. He moved with big men and did big things, but ever with reserve, dignity and amazing self-effacement."

THIS STORY is republished from the Oct. 26, 2017, edition of the Daily News.

Celebrating 50 Years of Serving our Community

Looking into the history of the piece of land at 308 S. Rowe has been an interesting excursion back in time. The original Third Ward School was built in 1872 at this location (the northwest corner of Foster and Rowe Streets). It is likely that this was a wooden building, as a new building

was built on that location in 1882 and opened on November 16 of that year. The building was built to seat 135 pupils and, by April of 1883, it had 144 students. By 1894, the property was deeded to Union School District No. 1, which was also known as Ludington. In 1904, that building was

converted to a manual art building and later served as the school's music building. On November 22, 1971, the Ludington School District sold the building to the City of Ludington, and the following year it opened its doors to senior citizens as a place to meet.

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Rath: Prominent pioneer, entrepreneur

BY JAMES JENSEN
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Like nearly all the early lumbering towns of West Michigan that survived after the decline of that early industry, Ludington was “saved” by economic angels; men who aided the transition from lumbering to other economic enterprises. The two men generally recognized as Ludington’s economic angels are Antoine E. Cartier (1836-1910) and Justus S. Stearns (1845-1933). Though not as well known or remembered, William Albert L. Rath (1849-1916) also contributed significantly to the economic evolution of Mason County after the decline of lumbering in the late 19th century.

William Albert L. Rath

Rath was born in Hamburg, Germany, and arrived in Ludington in 1870. William Rath’s passport application described him as 5 feet, 10 inches tall with blues eyes, long nose, large mustache and beard. He married Lucy Rieckhoff (1848-1932), whom he had known in Germany, in Ludington less than a month after his arrival. They made their home at 601 E. Foster St.

Rath became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1885 but remained very proud of his German heritage and customs. In a city that was rapidly becoming opposed to the consumption of alcohol, he continued to drink beer in the centuries-old tradition of his ancestors. When the residents of Mason County passed a local option in 1915 to restrict the sale and consumption of alcohol, Rath filed an unsuccessful legal challenge seeking to overturn the vote.

EARLY CAREER

While Rath would become a highly successful businessman and local leader, his early efforts in Ludington reflected the humble economic status of his family and the very basic education he received in German public schools. He was initially employed as a lumber stacker at local saw mills.

This was an occupation that relied more on a strong back than highly developed skills or training. He would later be promoted to the position of lumber inspector.

Rath’s entrepreneurial skills and ability to collaborate with key individuals in the community soon became apparent. He formed a company with his lifelong friend Fred Loppenthien (1846-1923) to apply stucco to the many new buildings being constructed in his new hometown. He and



Brochure for Gile Boat and Engine Company.



Mural depicting William Rath drinking from Ludington’s “Fountain of Youth”

Loppenthien also formed a company to stack lumber on a contract basis for local sawmills.

Rath and Emery Weimer (1856-1911) formed a lumber inspection business during the boom years of lumbering in Mason County.

Probably the most important business associate of Rath, both in terms of local stature and extent of collaboration, was Warren Cartier (1866-1934).

Rath and Cartier were jointly involved in many business ventures up to the time of Rath’s death in 1916.

However, those successful undertakings would occur primarily after Rath faced one of the biggest setbacks of his business career.

VICTIM OF SWINDLE

In 1890, the lumber business in Mason County was booming and local lumbermen looked for additional businesses into which they could invest.

William Rath did not always choose wisely as described by local historian James Cabot in the Sept. 12, 1998, edition of the Ludington Daily News:

“In 1890 several local investors were drawn into a fraudulent copper mining scheme by an operator named Goldsborough. Although most lost moderate sums in the swindle, William Rath was forced into bankruptcy by his heavy losses. Nevertheless, he

was able to repair his fortunes...”

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

A truly self-made man, William Rath was an owner, investor, manager and/or stockholder of numerous companies in both Mason and Manistee counties.

In Mason County, as well as his earlier involvement in lumber stacking and lumber inspection businesses, he was also a part owner of many businesses in conjunction with a veritable who’s who of Ludington businessmen of a century ago including:

- Gile Boat & Engine Company with J. S. Stearns, W. L. Mercereau, F. B. Olney, M. B. Danaher, J. H. Davies and L. T. Girdler;
- Ludington State Bank with W. A. Cartier, C. G. Wing, M. B. Danaher, R. P. Bishop, and W. T. Culver;
- Bank of Fountain with C. G. Wing, M. B. Danaher, R. P. Bishop, W. A. Cartier and A. E. Cartier;
- Phoenix Basket Company with J. E. Danaher, G. N. Stray, W. A. Wheatly, C. W. McConnell and A. E. Curtiss;
- United Home Telephone Co. with W. A. Cartier, G. T. Sands, T. Bromley
- The Busy Big Store with A. E. Cartier and H. P. Hansen

William Rath also had interests in Manistee businesses. These included the short-lived Manistee Watch Co. that manufactured watch movements that were shipped to Star Watch Case

Co. of Ludington for assembly. Rath owned this company in conjunction with J. Bachner, F. A. Bingham, P. Noud and T. J. Ramsdell.

Another prominent building in Manistee owned by Rath — a building that still exists today — is the Briny Building. He was the sole owner of the hotel from its construction in 1907 until the Brin Inn Company was incorporated in 1914. This new company was led by Rath, F. W. Hawley and August Field.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In addition to his many business endeavors in Mason and Manistee counties, Rath also served in a wide range of community service positions. He was an active member of the local Board of Trade, the predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce, frequently serving in the position of president.

A History of Northern Michigan and Its People—Volume 2, published in 1912, reports “For ten years he was a member of the board of aldermen of Ludington, and in the spring of 1910 there came a further and well merited mark of popular esteem when he was elected mayor of the city, for a term of one year.” Rath lost his bid for re-election to that position a year later by a single vote, the smallest margin in the history of that office.

William Rath was also very involved in the social life of the community especially as it was related to growing ties between the City of Ludington and the Methodist resort community of Epworth Heights. He was a leader in the development of the Ludington-Epworth Golf Club. He led the effort to raise \$15,000 (later increased to \$25,000) to build the first club house for the new organization. He offered the second largest contribution of \$500 toward this cause; the only larger commitment being \$1,000 from Justus Stearns.

This club house built in 1913 was located at the west end of Juanita Avenue overlooking Lake Michigan and the nine-hole Epworth golf course. The first club



MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY | COURTESY IMAGE

St. John’s Lutheran Church, about 1910.

house was destroyed by fire in 1919 and a second was rebuilt on the same site in 1920.

William Rath and his wife, the former Lucy Rieckhoff (1848-1932), were dedicated members of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ludington, known to many as the German Lutheran Church. In 1881 the members of the church having outgrown their current building decided to build a larger home for their congregation. A history of the church published in the Aug. 15, 1947 edition of the Ludington Daily News indicated the new church was planned to be a brick veneer building with a steeple rising 120 feet into the sky.

The building committee and fund raising effort was headed by William Rath. Those wishing to see the plans and specifications for the new church, to be built at 112 E. Melendy St., were invited to view them at the Rath home located at 601 E. Foster Street. Mr. and Mrs. Rath donated the altar and baptismal font.

PHILANTHROPY

While Rath expressed his generosity through his many donations like those to the Ludington-Epworth Golf Club and his church, perhaps his greatest gift to the community occurred at his death. His last will and testament contains this bequest:

“To the city of Ludington for the Cartier park for the clearing of grounds to make a park system, beautify grounds, for fence and large gates; for picnic grounds, tables and seats for the poor people especially, on Lincoln Lake, \$25,000.”

In 1921 the City of Lud-

ington renamed Charles Street as Rath Avenue to recognize this generosity. It is hardly surprising that the street renamed in honor of this benefactor is the street that runs from Ludington north to Cartier Park.

TRIBUTES

On Sunday Aug. 6, 1916 William Rath attended a meeting of the board of St. John’s Lutheran Church as he had faithfully done for decades. Though not feeling well he walked as was his custom to his home. He died on Thursday, Aug. 11 from heart failure.

While his death certificate describes him as a “capitalist,” he was much more than that to those who knew him.

Tributes from prominent local individuals included:

• M.B. Danaher — “I think he was the most public spirited and generous and energetic man we had in the town.”

• W.A. Cartier — “...a more honestly rugged man, loyal to the community in which he lived and absolutely loyal to his friends, I have never known.”

• H. G. Reek — “...Mr. Rath was one of the best men I ever knew, especially in his dealings with poor people.”

While the flags no longer stand at half-mast over city hall in his honor as they did when William Rath died in 1916, he is still remembered with a magnificent mausoleum at Lakeview Cemetery near the park he helped develop and both a mural and a building located in Ludington on the street that bears his name.

THIS STORY was republished from the Dec. 2 and Dec. 16, 2022, editions of the Daily News.

Capt. Robert Caswell: Look at pioneer of Ludington

BY JAMES R. JENSEN
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The May 9, 1889 edition of the Ludington Record newspaper contained an article with the bold headline, “AN ESTEEMED CITIZEN GONE.” That article included this laudatory description of the recently deceased:

“He is mourned as a friend to the poor, a father to the orphan, a champion of the oppressed, a devoted husband and affectionate father. His religion had but one tenet, the golden rule of Confucius, and throughout his whole life whether battling the waves as a servant of his government, or braving the dangers of navigation and sharing its hardships with his men, he was a living exemplification of that rule.

“When you did not dream that he knew of your trouble, he would suddenly appear as a ministering angel, and shadows of gloom would disappear before him as night fades before sunshine. But the plans of his generous mind, the warm impulse of his great heart, were in excess of his general system...”

“Ludington’s most loved pioneer, the father of much of its history, and the friend of every man who ever set foot on its streets,



Capt. Robert Caswell

passed quietly away, peacefully, contentedly, and like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

Those words were written about Capt. Robert Caswell (1834-1889) after his sudden passing due to a heart condition. He was not a prominent lumberman, industrialist or merchant; he was the owner and operator of what at that time was an integral and vital part of the local maritime economy — harbor tugs.

THE CAPTAIN

Caswell was born in Chippewa, Ontario, Canada, but lived most of his childhood years on a farm near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After a brief period working in the hardware business he became the captain of a ship owned by his father and brother; starting a maritime career that would encompass the balance of his life.

Robert Caswell was married twice. He and his first wife had three children before she died

from consumption (tuberculosis). He re-married in 1872, and he and his second wife had six children. The Caswell family; Robert, his second wife Mary Charlotte and the surviving children from both his marriages lived at 205 N. Ferry St. in Ludington.

His daughter, local historian Francis Caswell Hanna (1875-1961), described him as, “...blue-eyed, bald-headed and like most men of his day bearded. His baldness annoyed him. He liked the lady who reminded him, ‘But Captain, you know they never put marble tops on poor furniture.’”

THE TUGS

The harbor formed by Pere Marquette Lake and the discharge of Pere Marquette River into Lake Michigan was the lifeline of the early Village of Pere Marquette and its successor, the City of Ludington. Ships, at first wind-driven sailing ships and later steam powered vessels, were used to bring supplies to the residents of the region and to transport goods produced by the lumber, salt, agricultural and fishing industries that drove the early Mason County economy.

Unfortunately these ships, due to their propulsion systems and the ever changing channel that

allowed access to Lake Michigan, needed to be towed into and out of the harbor. Assistance was also required to move ships to and away from the numerous docks that ringed Pere Marquette Lake. This assistance was provided by harbor tugs, small powerful ships that were the “workhorses” of the harbor.

Capt. Robert Caswell owned several of these tugboats at various times in association with noted businessmen James Ludington (1827-1891), Amos Breinig (1832-1906), David A. Melendy and James Foley (1844-1926). While ownership was sometimes shared, it was Caswell himself who was at the helm of these harbor tugs on a daily basis; a practice that continued to the last days of his life.

The tugs owned by Caswell and his associates include the Cyclone put into service locally in 1867, the B. W. Aldrich which began operations here in 1871 and the Sport that commenced its local service in 1877.

The Caswell tugs were always very busy. Records in the Mason County Historical society archives indicate that in 1885 alone his tugs moved 154 ships into and out of the Ludington harbor.

PUBLIC SERVICE

In addition to providing a vital service to the business interests of the community through the operation of his tugboats, Capt. Caswell served the entire community while holding various public offices. His May 9, 1889 obituary contained this description of his reputation and his service to the community:

“Capt. Caswell was in no sense a politician, although often holding office, many times much against his will. His sterling worth, well known honesty, and the universal esteem in which he was held, often compelled him to be the candidate of his party, as victory was well-nigh assured with him on the ticket. In politics, he was by instinct a Republican. He had been supervisor several terms, alderman from the First ward four years, mayor in 1885 and 1886, the last time being elected without opposition, and at the time of his death was a member of the board of education.”

Capt. Robert Caswell lived in Ludington for only 22 years of his life, but left a lasting legacy of service to the maritime industry, the community and his family.

THIS STORY is republished from the March 26, 2022, edition of the Daily News.

The Manufacturer's Addition

BY JAMES R. JENSEN
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Efforts to bring new businesses, and the economic benefit they generate, to Mason County have continued for well over a century as our community transitioned from lumber to manufacturing and tourism. One of the earliest chapters in this effort took place in the 1890s headed by The Citizens Development Company.

This group worked to develop the new Manufacturer's Addition located on the north side of Ludington. Building on an extensive promotion campaign, lots for homes were sold, factories were attracted to the region and the city took action in support of these activities.

In the April 2, 1953 edition of the Ludington Daily News, historian Rose D. Hawley described this 1890s activity, "Water mains were being laid in the addition: James Street was being improved, the telephone had been introduced and a railroad spur was planned by Flint & Pere Marquette Railway Co. out to the factories."

Eventually four factories were planned in this new addition. While none of those original businesses would survive for more than few years, three of those buildings would become home to many other businesses over the decades. The history of the fourth factory, Ludington Radiator Manufacturing Company, is unclear.

THE DEVELOPERS

In the 1890s Mason County was in transition from lumbering to another economic structure. What that structure would be was not yet clearly defined, but most white pine forests had been harvested, many sawmills had closed and the lumbermen - the men who had built this community fueled by the lumber business - were leaving to seek new opportunities in other communities.

There were, however, people who did not want to see Ludington added to the long and growing list of local "ghost towns" that had once been thriving lumbering towns in Michigan. These men incorporated the Ludington Improvement Association on May 28, 1891, with capital of \$10,000. The stockholders included Mayor Fred E. Gary and men with the prominent local surnames of Danaher, Dowland, Foster and Stearns among several others. A few months later negotiations began with Charles Mears (1814-1895) to purchase 2,000 acres directly north of the Ludington city limits as a location for the new businesses the group hoped to attract to Ludington.

THE PLAN

The land bordered by what are now Rath Avenue, Tinkham Avenue, Washington Avenue and Bryant Road (with the exception of a small portion of the parcel in its southwest corner) was added to the City of Ludington as the Manufacturer's Addition (Note: various other spellings including Manufacturers', Manufactures, Manufacturers were also used at times.)

The north-south streets within this newly platted addition were the extensions of the streets already existing that had been named by James Ludington; James after himself, Harrison and Rowe after his cousins and Delia, Lavinia and Emily after his sisters. For some undocumented reason the names of poets were attached to the east-west streets: John Greenleaf Whittier, James Russell Lowell, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and William Cullen Bryant.

A second organization was soon formed. The Citizens Development Company was headed by Charles Gordon Wing (1846-1920) with Hannibal S. Fuller as treasurer. Stockholders in this new group also included prominent residents with the surnames Cartier, Caswell, Danaher, Goodenough, Filer, Foster, Mendelson, Olney, Rath, Stray among others. Another of the investors was Frank A. Foster, Mason County Treasurer.

Efforts were begun to sell lots from this new addition



Early Handy Things factory.



A image of the July 14, 1892, edition of the Ludington Record proclaims the Manufacturer's Addition, which was bordered by Bryant Road and Rath, Tinkham and Washington avenues.

to both businesses and homeowners. The July 2, 1892 edition of The Ludington Record reported the pre-sale of almost 150 parcels at prices ranging from \$25 to \$140 per lot. Antoine E. Cartier purchased a full city block for \$1,000.

Promotion programs to sell the remaining lots were quickly undertaken. Dawn Dornbos in the autumn 1973 edition of MCHS Mason Memories described these efforts with these words, "Manufacturer's Addition was the best published and most celebrated addition to the city of Ludington. P. T. Barnum couldn't have done a better job of balmyhooing than the local businessmen who promoted it... 'Booming' was the objective of the company."

THE CELEBRATION

The climax of this promotion campaign occurred that same month - July, 1892. On July 7 a proclamation from Mayor Lucius K. Baker reminded citizens that "Our beautiful city will be called upon to entertain a large number of guests on July 14.... I would therefore recommend that July 14 be a holiday, and that the merchants and business men close their various places of business at 12 o'clock noon that day. I would also ask the good citizens to decorate their buildings in a manner befitting he occasion..."

The July 14, 1892 edition of the Ludington Record ran a story with the headlines:

"DRESSED FOR COMPANY
Ludington, the Pride of the Lakes

Cast Your 'Lot' With Us - It's a Good Investment"

The July 21 edition of that same newspaper reported, "Boats from Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Manistee, Pentwater, and trains from the east and south as well as several thousand people residing in Mason County made in the aggregate quite a crowd."

Of that memorable day historian James Cabot wrote:

"The festivities were planned by S. E. Gross, the Chicago real estate agent. He arranged for horse races, a parade and an old-time barbecue to put everyone in a good mood for the sale.

commenced, resulting in the sale of about \$10,000 worth of lots."

While the sale of lots in this new addition to Ludington was successful, the challenge now was to bring factories and the jobs associated with them to the district.

801 N. ROWE ST.

Mendelson Manufacturing Company, a maker of men's clothing, opened a factory at 801 N. Rowe Street on the northwest corner of Rowe and Whitlier Streets in the new Manufacturer's Addition. Unfortunately the company survived only a few years before succumbing to the economic depression of the late 1890s. In 1953 Francis Caswell Hanna, historian and a local resident of that time, wrote, "The times were not ripe for change, the pants factory folded, the Mendelsons moved away..."

After remaining vacant for some time the building would later house several other companies and be expanded to its present size. Tubbs Manufacturing Co. made wood type and other products related to the printing industry in the building from 1904 to 1911. The Carrom Company in its earlier days operated in the building from 1911 to 1916 producing games sold throughout the United States. The Haskell Manufacturing Company, headed by inventor and businessman Henry H. Haskell (1863-1940), produced a specialty type of plywood and canoes made with this unique material in the

building from 1913 to 1933.

In addition several other smaller companies operated in a portion of the factory or at least announced intentions to do so. These included Ludington Manufacturing Company producing pianos, Glengarry Upholstering Company and cigar makers Lubetsky Bros. & Kleiner Company.

In the mid 1930s with the country in the midst of yet another economic downturn the building remained unoccupied until the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) used the building at its headquarters while construction of the Ludington State Park and other local projects were undertaken.

Wolverine Sportswear Company acquired the building in 1944. This company produced coats and jackets at that location until 1989. Ludington Machine and Tool Corporation leased a portion of the building and produced metal shelving and racks for a few years during this period. From 1989 to 2019 the building was utilized by Change Parts Inc. as part of their packaging equipment operations.

The original Mendelson Building was renovated and repurposed as The Lofts on Rowe by Michigan Community Capital to provide much needed housing in the City of Ludington.

814 N. ROWE ST.

The E.G. Whitacre Company was incorporated on Nov. 8, 1892 with E. G. Whitacre, William Cartier (1873-1918) and H. S. Fuller as

stockholders. The company planned to manufacture specialty wood products, but like all the other original plants in the new addition, the Whitacre Company did not survive and folded in 1894. The company was quickly reorganized as Cartier Enameling Company with three members of the prominent Cartier family as officers; Antoine E. Cartier (1836-1910) president, Warren E. Cartier (1866-1934) vice president and Charles Cartier (1875-1959) secretary/treasurer.

The Cartier interests were sold to the Handy Things Company in 1901. A decade later Justus S. Stearns (1845-1933) became president of this company with his son Robert L. Stearns (1872-1939) as vice president and longtime associate W. T. Culver (1863-1940) as secretary/treasurer.

In 1919 Walter H. Pleiss (1886-1980) assumed ownership. A new building was constructed in 1930 but the factory would close in the 1980s, 88 years after the Whitacre operation began.

NORTH ROWE STREET AT LONGFELLOW STREET

The Standard Cloth Co. produced window shade cloth. It was founded by Oren Durham of Chicago in October 1892, but was out of business and sold at auction in 1894. Within a short time the Carrom-Archarena Company was operating in the building producing games and other wooden products. The company became Carrom Company when ownership transferred to Justus S. Stearns.

By the 1960s production was focused on wooden furniture and similar products until Carrom moved its operation to Mississippi in 1972. The building was later purchased by what is now FloraCraft. This highly successful company now occupies several buildings in the Manufacturer's Addition.

The transition of the local economy, begun in the 1900s, continues today. Rose D. Hawley summarized it this way, "...the city gained a new addition within its designated boundaries, the last development of any size. Ludington, which up to that time depended on lumbering for its main industry was saying, 'The king is dead, love live the king - Manufacturing.'"

THIS STORY was edited and republished from stories in the Oct. 22 and Nov. 5, 2021, editions of the Daily News.

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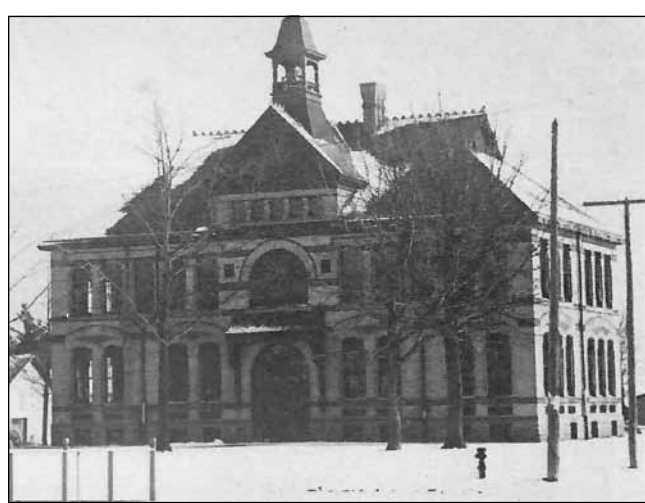
Education beyond high school

Before WSCC, Mason County Normal School had higher education for future teachers

BY JAMES JENSEN
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In the 19th century Michigan residents preparing for a career as teachers at the elementary and secondary level received their training in state normal schools. The State of Michigan operated four such institutions; first known as State, Western, Central and Northern Normal Schools would evolve into Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Central Michigan University and Northern Michigan University, respectively.

In 1925 The State of Michigan was considering the establishment of a fifth state normal school (by that time being referred to as a college). The Ludington Trade Bureau made a valiant, but ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to convince the state to locate that new college in Ludington. Had that college been built in Ludington the area bordered by Tinkham Avenue, Lakeshore Drive, Bryant Road and Gaylord Avenue would have become



The original Pere Marquette School, built in 1886.

an almost 80-acre campus. Eventually the State dropped the idea of building a fifth normal college anywhere in Michigan.

MASON COUNTY NORMAL SCHOOL

Recognizing the need to train additional teachers to serve the ever growing number of students in rural "one-room" schools, the state legislature in 1903 authorized the establishment

of county normal schools. Mason County Normal School opened in 1904 and graduated its first class in 1905 to meet this growing local need.

The school was housed at first in the original Third Ward school located in the 200 block of East Foster Street and later for many years in Pere Marquette School. That later grade school, built in 1886, was located on the corner of

Fourth and Adams streets in Ludington's Fourth Ward. Mason County Normal School was situated in the front rooms of the first floor, left and right of the main entrance, with practice teaching rooms located in the basement. In those basement rooms, the prospective teachers being trained offered instruction to first, third and sixth grade students.

CLASS OF 1905

The class photo of the first graduating class of Mason County Normal school depicts 15 young women all with the same high colored blouse and styled hairdo worn by their principal, Effie Deam. Three of these young women had the surname Kistler, a name long associated with Summit Township. Many others, destined to teach in rural schools, were also likely from rural backgrounds themselves.

CLASS OF 1913

The ninth graduating class of Mason County Normal School, whose story is

related in the Inger Andersen Parker scrapbook, consisted of 14 young women and one man – William McGregor. The principal and teacher of academic subjects was Lily Robinson. The practice teaching was supervised by critic teacher Amanda Backon Vestling.

The graduation ceremony was held at The Congregational Church in Ludington, The Community Church today. The extensive Parker scrapbook offers many details such as the class colors were maroon and cream and the class flower was The American Beauty Rose.

Starting with the 40th class reunion in 1953, the classmates gather again annually many times. Each of these reunions was recorded in Mrs. Parker's scrapbook with photos (including dates and names), newspaper clippings and personal recollections; adding so much to the MCHS archival collection

THE LEGACY

Mason County Normal School operated from 1904 to 1942, graduating more

than 500 students to teach in the many rural schools of Mason County. The school eventually closed due to expanded credential requirements from the state, the dramatic reduction in the number of rural schools caused primarily by consolidation and the changes in society brought about by World War II and the evolution of the means of travel in the county.

Some of the teachers who received their initial training at Mason County Normal School would return to college to earn additional certification and would go on to serve the community for many years carrying on the legacy so lovingly described in a scrapbook collected by Inger Andersen Parker relating the story of the 1913 graduating class of Mason County Normal School — the inspiration for this article. Additional information was provided by material written by Terry Luxford.

THIS STORY is republished from the Nov. 20, 2021, edition of the Daily News.

West Shore Community College fulfills need two decades after closing of Mason County Normal

For at least a decade, there had been talk of a community college being built in the area.

Finally, in 1967, Mason and Manistee counties voted to form a community college district. Although Manistee rejected the millage proposal, Mason County voted heavily in favor of passing the measure.

Then came a year-long court battle over site selection, with the present location finally approved.

West Shore Community College began as a collection of evening classes taught at Manistee and Scottville high schools. In 2016 it was ranked among Michigan's 10 best community colleges.

Today, WSCC sends students on to four-year universities, and prepares others for the skilled work force.

The college in Victory Township grew over the years to fulfill several programs, from nursing and law enforcement training to theater, music and more.

The college was at first led by John Eaton as its president. The start was humble as he admitted in 2017 that the office was basically his 1965 Volkswagen.

The first campus, so to speak, was two farmhouses and six modular units as construction of the campus was underway.

In 2017, Eaton marveled at the continued use of the original buildings at West Shore.

"It's great to see that the building structures have well served the purposes they were built for. I'm glad that they had to be expanded," Eaton said then. "It's a vital and necessary part of any community college, and it's great to see that it's flourished."

A dedication ceremony was hosted on May 17, 1970 on the property for the college's first building.

The first commencements for students were in 1970 and 1971. In August 1970, the first practical nursing graduates received their degrees while the first general commencement took place on June 13, 1971, in the Campus Center Lounge.

While Bill Anderson was president, he put a significant focus on the cultural and performing arts series.

It paid off. "There were a lot of people that were coming to campus and being pretty impressed. I think that in an area that's pretty rural, that some people might say is a cultural void, that it was different now," Anderson told the Daily News in 2017.

After the successes there, he turned his attention to a partnership with what is now West Shore Educational Services District to lift up



A student walks past Schoenherr Campus Center on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, during the first day of classes at West Shore Community College in Victory Township.

JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO



West Shore Community College's campus was initially comprised of relocatable, temporary buildings.

VIGGO JENSEN | COURTESY IMAGE

the vocational and technical education. And, WSCC sought out dual enrollment.

The addition of the tech center in 1993 brought excitement to the campus.

"Everybody wants to go to a big university where the lights are brighter, but it's pretty good out here, too," Anderson said in 2017. It had a profound effect on the opportunity of students in higher learning and the sciences and in vocational technical education."

The West Shore Community Ice Arena was established in September 2001, made possible through a Michigan Department of

Natural Resources grant and community donations — which totaled more than \$940,000 — from residents, area counties and businesses like the Little River Casino Resort.

The facilities are designed for year-round use, with seating for 320 spectators, four locker rooms, a concession stand and skate rental. The arena is owned by Mason County and maintained by the college.

January 2002 was a time for celebration at the college, which marked the opening of a new, state-of-the-art science wing.

The addition was the larg-

est to the campus since 1992, adding four science labs, a cadaver lab, a greenhouse and a lecture room. It also included storage and preparation areas for each lab and 10 classrooms.

"This is a milestone in the college's history," said then Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences Elaine Collins. "We need to all celebrate this moment. Everyone, from the faculty, staff and trustees to the citizens, they have all had a part in fulfilling a vision we had for this college."

With a new science wing offering state-of-the-art technology for students, 2010 was a time to turn to



Two prospective nurses practice taking a pulse in the early days of West Shore Community College.

DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

the arts.

West Shore established the Manierre Dawson Gallery in late 2010, naming it after the famed Riverton Township-based artist.

The college worked with Dawson's grandson, Pere Lockwood, to properly honor Dawson through the gallery, and coincided with a generous donation of "House at Bridge," a work by Dawson completed in 1910 and valued at more than \$100,000.

The opportunity for the college came about during Professor Sharon Bluhm's sabbatical, during which time she

researched Dawson and created a manuscript about him and his work that includes some of his journal entries. The manuscript is currently under final consideration at a university press, she said.

The 100-year-old painting was completed in one of Dawson's most significant years in his work as one of the first American abstract artists, Bluhm said.

West Shore celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017, and a book written by author and graduate Sarah Jensen highlighted the college she knew all too well.

TO PAGE F7



JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO
The building at Lincoln and Decker roads closed as a school in 2008. It was used regularly by community and athletic groups, but not fully. It is the home of Oaktree Academy childcare center.



A view of Lakeview Elementary School after its construction at its site. A previously built structure on the same site, was constructed in the late 1890s.

DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTOS
Above is what was then the newly constructed junior high school with two wings flanking what is today called Hawley Gymnasium in the 1950s.

At left, is another aerial view of the Ludington secondary school complex, showing not only Ludington High School but also O.J. DeJonge Middle School, the connection between the two schools that includes the library, chorus and band rooms, Peterson Auditorium and at bottom left the Baldwin Pool.



PATTI KLEVORN | DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO
Bella Vandenheuvel and Amelia VanWyck are among the color guard members leading the band through the Freedom Festival Grand Parade in 2017.

SCHOOLS: Ludington school system had buildings dot city to serve students' needs

FROM PAGE F1

In 1955 the Ludington Board of Education voted to rename the school district as the Ludington School District No. 1 of Mason County. This was partly because of the annexation of some of the outlying districts.

More consolidation occurred during the school year of 1966-67 when Nordhouse, South Hamlin, Pleasant View and Summit Districts joined with the Ludington District.

Preliminary plans for the present Franklin School were included in a bond issue passed by voters late in 1956. The issue also included an addition to the junior high school which was

destined to become a four-grade high school when completed. The elementary school plans called for a 10-room facility with an all-purpose room.

A new junior high school was planned in 1962 and construction was begun in 1963 on a new Lakeview School with the building of Pere Marquette School begun later. In 1967 voters of Mason and Manistee counties approved the construction of a community college and ground was broken in May 1969.

West Shore Community College celebrated its 50th in 2017 with a liberal arts program that both trains people seeking careers in law enforcement, nurs-

ing and welding while also working with four-year anniversaries to ensure WSCC students can transfer to those campuses.

And in 1972 voters of Ludington approved the building program for the high school and at three of the elementary schools. Additions and renovations continued into the 1990s. In the late 1990s, additions that were completed were for science labs at O.J. DeJonge Junior High and office space at Pere Marquette Elementary School.

But not all of the school buildings stayed open. Longfellow School was the first to close, and the property became what is now Longfellow Tower in the

1970s.

At one point, Ludington Area Schools had South Summit, South Hamlin, Pere Marquette, Lakeview, Franklin and Foster elementary schools to go with the secondary school complex. In the past 20-plus years, though, the elementary schools were shuttered nearly one at a time as enrollment within the district declined. Summit School, in the early 2000s, housed early childhood programs for FiveCAP after it closed in 2004.

South Hamlin was closed in June 2008, again to cut costs and enrollment issues.

It left four elementariness — Lakeview, Foster,

Franklin and what was the Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center — and after the \$100-plus bond was passed in May 2019, the school district used property it owned in Pere Marquette Charter Township to house all of the students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade at Ludington Elementary School. It marked the first time since the district's early days that an elementary school wasn't within the city's limits.

As Ludington celebrates its 150th, the building project at Ludington High School and O.J. DeJonge Middle School are underway with plans being finalized to start the work at Oriole Field, including renovations

of the softball and baseball diamonds and the installation of artificial turf at the football/soccer field.

Ludington has indeed come a long way since the early days when school was taught for only two months during the summer.

Now a child in Ludington can attend pre-school classes, go on to elementary and high school, and attend a two-year higher education institution without leaving his home county.

THIS STORY was republished, in part, from Nov. 10, 1973, and was updated by Managing Editor David Bossick to reflect the 50 years since its publication.

WSCC: Higher education

FROM PAGE F6

"I am fortunate to have grown up on the property which would later become the campus, and developing a theme for the book was not difficult," Jensen said in 2018 about her book "West Shore Community College: The First Fifty Years."

"But telling the story through the voices of those who created and later transformed the college — and telling the story accurately — was my primary goal."

Jensen's father, Viggo, was a custodian at the campus that including land that was at one time part of the Jensen family's.

"My grandfather, Lars Jensen, had owned 160 acres of what became the West Shore campus, and my father eventually owned 10 of those acres," she said in 2016. "I already knew much of the early history of the land, and living there, I'd watched construction of the college right in my back yard."

The college boasted more than 6,000-plus alumni in 2017, with some students getting their associates degree, certification or a transfer into a four-year institution quickly. Other students continued to education themselves over the course of the decades.

"I have been taking classes off and on since (1971)," Joan Archer told the Daily News in July 2017. "I come out now and take a body conditioning class every week. Even after 50 years, I continue to use (WSCC)."

Following the 50th anniversary celebration, the footprint of West Shore Community College changed with satellite campuses starting up with the renovations and finishing of the Rimer Regional Public Safety Training Center.

The two-story refurbished building has several classrooms of various size; an 15-yard gun range with six firing stations that has specially designed air-conditioning to blow gun barrel/muzzle gases away from the students; a multi-station computer lab; a 3D situation virtual simulator; locker rooms; conference room; forensic evidence training room; and more.

"The nice thing (is) we have room to grow," said former WSCC Director of Criminal Justice Dan Dellar in 2019. "We have our space, our privacy, and we have room to grow. It's state-of-the-art, a place where our students can get the best public safety training there is, anywhere."

Most recently, in 2021, WSCC opened a renovated campus building along the Manistee River in downtown Manistee. The building also houses the Northwest Michigan Works! office and the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce.

THIS STORY is compiled from various reports from the Daily News including special sections commemorating West Shore Community College's first 50 years.

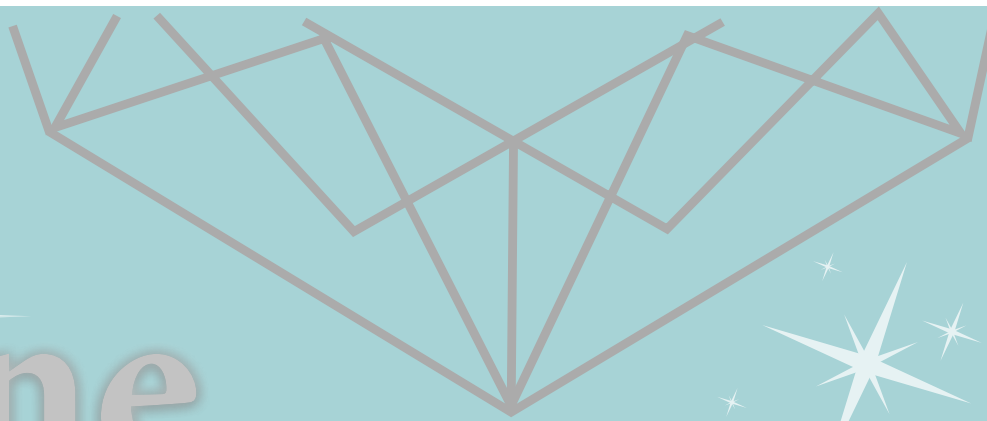
As we celebrate Ludington this year, we look back on the rich history it holds within West Michigan, including how important it became within the shipping and transport industries. The lights guiding the ships to port still stand today because of the support from this community and our volunteers. We hope you will join us at the lights this summer to celebrate the history of Ludington!

Join us at the lights this year to celebrate 150 years of Ludington

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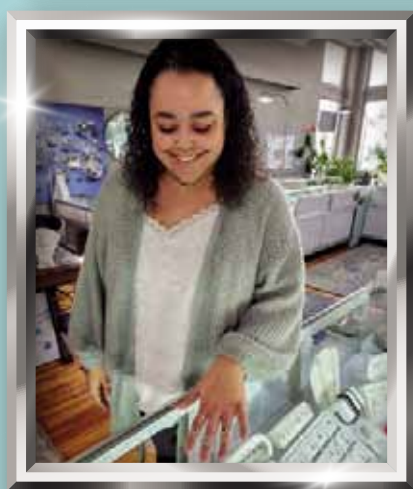
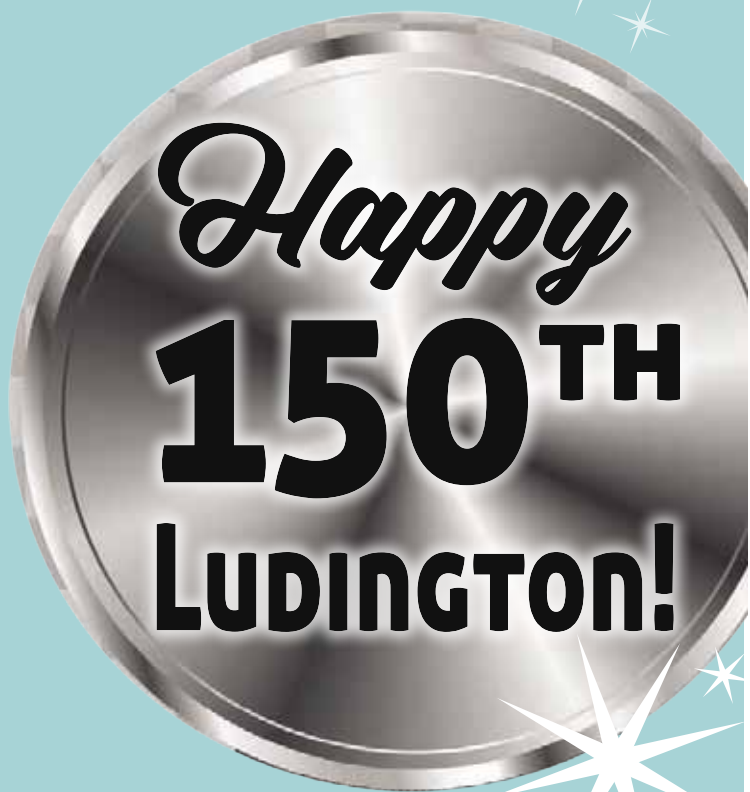
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