

## The Bates family history

by **Thelma Bates Featherstone's daughter**

The Bates family history at 293 Lake Street in Fruitport goes way back for a current Ravenna resident. Thelma (Bates) Featherstone was born and raised in that house, but much happened before her generation.

The home was originally purchased by William B. Bates. He came to Fruitport from England. The home he purchased was eventually moved by the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon Railway for the sum of \$50. It was moved from lot 3 block 31 to lot 3 block 35 in 1901.

In the late 1800s, William's brother, John Bate(s) came from England to live in Fruitport. He stayed with William until his future wife, Edith Jane Helson, followed him from England in September, 1888. She is remembered as saying, "If he doesn't want to marry me, I can always support myself!" They were married September 27, 1888 at the home of William B. Bates, which came to be 293 Lake Street in Fruitport.

Some time after they were married, they moved to Elk Rapids, where they had four children. Edith and John's son, William, moved to Fruitport and stayed with his uncle, William B. Bates, after he graduated from high school in 1910. While he was staying there, he met his future wife, Thelma Ball. They were married in 1916, at 293 Lake Street, in the same home as they did the generation before. When William B. Bates died in 1936, the house was left to William and Thelma (Ball) Bates.

William and Thelma had three children who were all born in the home at 293 Lake Street. The oldest was Francis E.L. Bates, who went by "Bill." He was born in 1917. Then second, there was Frederick Bates, born in 1920, and last but not least, then

came Thelma, born in 1935.

When the boys moved out, they were not far away. Bill lived at 312 Pine Street in Fruitport; just a walk through the woods from his parents' house. Bill's house is gone, now, replaced by newer models. Fred lived in a house he built himself out of blocks, at the southeast corner of Peach Street and Seventh Street. His house is still there.

Then there was Thelma. Thelma was the first lifeguard in Fruitport. She met her husband after being stopped by two police officers in Fruitport for not stopping at a stop sign. Her older brother, Fred, was the Fruitport Township police chief at the time. When the two officers pulled her over, she pulled into the parking spot right next to her future husband, but did not know him at this time. When the officers asked her for her license, and asked her if she was related to Fred Bates (which, of course, she was), they just warned her and let her go. (Boy, did her brother Fred get mad about that one!) This was Ray's chance to spark up conversation with Thelma. They dated and were married on July 1, 1955 in Fruitport. The plans were to get married at 293 Lake Street at the same home where two generations before got married, but that didn't happen. The man who was to marry them was awaiting an important phone call, so they had to go to his house to get "hitched." However, they did have their reception at 293 Lake Street, so they were happy about that.

Thelma's mother died on March 25, 1960, and her father died on December 12 the same year. The house was left to Thelma. She was living in Ravenna at that time, however, so she decided to sell the house. It was sold in 1962 after being in the family for generations. •

## West Michigan Therapy launches program for homelessness

(Submitted by West Michigan Therapy)

West Michigan Therapy (WMT) is pleased to announce the launch of its 2010 Million Quarter Drive to prevent homelessness in Muskegon County.

WMT is a non-profit organization located at 130 E. Apple Avenue in Muskegon and at 2333 Jarman Street in Muskegon Heights. It has long been a leader in providing services and housing to people who have no place to live or who are in danger of losing their residence.

Founded in 1985 as a substance abuse agency, WMT entered the housing arena in 1993 with the establishment of the Transitional Living Center (TLC). Not a temporary shelter, TLC allows women to stay long enough to get services and resources that stabilize and empower them to live independently once again.

While getting TLC started, WMT's director and CEO, Louis Churchwell, took the lead in establishing the Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care Network (MCHCCN). This was a vital step in the process of preventing homelessness in Muskegon County because it was a prerequisite to receive Housing and Urban Development (HUD) money targeted for the homeless.

Today, WMT has emerged as the leader in Muskegon County and the State of Michigan in providing housing and services for those without a place to live. Some of the programs include:

- Housing Navigation Center: A service that helped over 200 households and over 400 persons last year find a place to live. An assessment is done for someone who is homeless or near-homeless and the appropriate service and/or resource is recommended.

- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), a Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) program through which \$1 million flow into Muskegon County to help people make rent payments and stay housed.

- Homeless Assistance Recovery Program (HARP), part of the Michigan Cam-

paign to End Homelessness, people who are homeless or near homeless and meet certain income criteria can receive vouchers to help them get housing. One organization is designated as lead agency in each county to administer this program, and WMT is that agency. This program provided over \$1.5 million dollars to the community for rental assistance and to reduce vacancies in the community.

- Social Security Outreach and Recovery (SOAR), a program to speed up the process of getting Social Security benefits for those in need and who qualify. WMT was the first organization in Michigan to use this program. Homeless and near homeless people have very little if any resources to navigate the Social Security system. WMT is able to help get those people benefits much more quickly, now in a matter of days or months (14 to 120 days) as opposed to years.

In general, when people have a place to live they:

- Have a better chance of being employed and earn higher income
- Are less likely to use an emergency room for medical attention
- Don't stay in emergency shelters
- Are less likely to be arrested or spend time in jail
- Are less likely to spend the night in a hospital

There is a benefit or cost associated with each of the above categories. It is estimated that by utilizing the programs at WMT to get people a place to live (or keep the place they have), nearly \$600,000 is saved annually in Muskegon County (based on Grassroots Cost Analysis surveying 63 participants). As WMT serves over 400 households per year with an 85 percent success rate of maintaining housing, this cost savings is a fraction of what these programs are leveraging for the community.

The Million Quarter Drive to Prevent Homelessness will raise \$250,000 to fund these vital programs that are helping people in need and saving our county thousands of dollars. •

# FAN BANK

Purchase your FAN Money from  
Copies & More, Airline Rd. at Pontaluna, Fruitport

## Pay for your purchase with FAN Money and SAVE!

All **FAN** Money Certificates have a value of \$5.00

Name of Merchant	You Pay	Limit per customer
<b>A Musk. Window Tint</b> 2386 S. Getty	\$2.50	20
<b>Audio Tek</b> 3658 Airline	\$2.50	40
<b>B&amp;L Electric</b> (231) 773-8800	\$2.00	40
<b>Burger Crest</b> 376 N. Third	\$3.50	2
<b>Carol's Bridal and Tuxedo</b> 1784 E. Apple	\$2.00	20
<b>Community Shores Dental</b> 384 N. Third Ave.	\$3.00	40
<b>Computers Plus</b> 4759 Airline	\$2.50	20
<b>Cozy Corner Café</b> 3162 Hts. Ravenna Rd.	\$3.00	2
<b>Curves</b> 1038 E. Sternberg	\$2.00	6
<b>Exhaust Special T's</b> 7162 E. Apple Ave., Mkg	\$2.50	40
<b>Fruitport Family Eye Care</b> 388 N Third	\$2.50	20
<b>Fruitport Pennzoil</b> 345 N. Third	\$2.00	5
<b>Garage Door Specialist</b> (616) 842-7352	\$2.50	40
<b>Gemworks</b> 4851 A Harvey	\$2.50	20
<b>Gozo Custom Apparel</b> 4845 Airline	\$2.50	10
<b>Grooming Room</b> 3117 Hts. Ravenna Rd.	\$3.00	4
<b>Grover Pharmacy</b> 10 S. Third, Ftpt.	\$3.00	4
<b>Gustino's</b> 1833 E. Sherman Blvd.	\$2.50	6
<b>Johnson Auto Sales</b> 14658 Apple Dr., Ftpt.	\$2.00	40
<b>Kevin Reedy Photography</b> 11999 Cleveland, Nunica	\$2.50	20
<b>Kitchens by A &amp; B</b> 3920 E. Apple Avenue	\$2.00	40
<b>Lange Flooring</b> 1600 Glade St., Mkg.	\$2.50	40
<b>LeFleur Shoppe</b> 4210 Grand Haven Rd.	\$2.50	6
<b>Linda Rae's Craft Castle</b> 5638 Holton Rd., Twin Lk.	\$2.50	10
<b>Mark's Transmission</b> 1045 S. Getty	\$2.50	40
<b>Moore Music</b> 3120 Glade St., Mkg	\$2.50	20
<b>Optometry West</b> 3106 Glade St., Mkg	\$2.50	20
<b>Past &amp; Present Treasures</b> 14674 Apple Dr., Ftpt.	\$2.50	4
<b>Peppie's Pizza</b> 22 S. Third Ave., Ftpt.	\$3.00	4
<b>Perfect Prints Photo.</b> 4845 Airline Rd.	\$2.50	20
<b>Pincrest Lanes</b> 6571 Airline Rd.	\$2.50	6
<b>Pizza Ranch</b> 1848 E. Sherman	\$2.50	6
<b>Schmidt Roofing</b> 552 W. Southern	\$2.00	40
<b>Scott Meats</b> 303 W. Broadway	\$3.00	4
<b>Scrapbook 101</b> 4845 Airline Rd.	\$2.50	6
<b>Service Tech's Direct</b> (231) 865-6324	\$2.00	40
<b>Sethco Lumber</b> 4566 E. Apple Ave., Mkg	\$2.00	40
<b>Seven Sisters Antiques</b> 3144 Heights Ravenna Rd.	\$2.00	6
<b>Spring Lake Bridal</b> 11999 Cleveland, Nunica	\$2.00	10
<b>Spring Lake Floral</b> 209 W. Savidge, S.L.	\$2.50	6
<b>Sunlovers Tanning</b> 281 N. Third, Ftpt.	\$3.00	6
<b>The Cheese Lady</b> 808 Terrace St., Mkg.	\$2.50	4
<b>Tumbleweed Tack Shop</b> 8813 Hts. Rav., Ravenna	\$2.50	3
<b>Vacuum Cleaner Centers</b> 1848 E. Sherman	\$2.00	10
<b>Van's Quick Lube</b> 3041 Heights Ravenna Rd.	\$2.00	5
<b>Vic's</b> 14977 Cleveland, S.L.	\$3.00	4

## Use \$5 Certificates Like Money!

**FAN** Money can be used like real money. Come to the **FAN** office (Copies & More at Corner of Pontaluna & Airline Rd.) Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and select the **FAN** Money for the merchant you are interested in visiting. Each coupon is worth \$5, but you pay only \$1 to \$4.00 for each one. Then take the **FAN** Money Certificate to the participating merchant and use it toward your purchase.

## Fruitport Area News

This paper's purpose for existence is to be beneficial to this community in any way it can. FAN publishes 8,000 copies six times a year and copies are mailed to all of the 6,000 plus households in Fruitport and Sullivan townships plus additional copies mailed to subscribers and businesses in surrounding areas.

(231) 865-3135  
420 N. Third Ave., Fruitport, MI 49415  
Publisher, Fruitport Area News, Inc.

Papers available (\$1) at:  
Copies & More, Fruitport  
Orchard Market, Fruitport  
Orchard Market, Spring Lake

Editor .....Ron Cooper  
Copy Editor .....Mary Weimer  
Graphics .....Chris Pastotnik  
Paula Adkins  
Mariann Cooper  
Sales .....Marilee Beck  
Stasia Fielstra  
Ron Cooper

Subscription \$6.00 Per Year