



An old picture of **Lundbergs**

two-story pavilion in Pamona Park. In a tragic ironic twist, Harry, the youngest son of Joseph Ford, drowned in front of the Pavilion during its first year of operation. But with a \$35,000 modern era pavilion up and running, happy days were here again. But with a \$35,000 modern era pavilion up and running, happy days were here again. But with a \$35,000 modern era pavilion up and running, happy days were here again. Good times were rolling. "We would drive up in the boat at the Wharf Bar, casually get out and buy some beer, then take off," smiled Dykehouse.

1928 signified the end of one age, when the Interurban railroad left town, and introduced another, when US16 (Airline Road) was built. Other firsts included Farr View Dairy and Lundbergs in 1931, General Telephone in 1939, the Fruitport Fire Dept in 1945, Noren's arrival along with Schultz Trucking in 1946, Fruitport Stone Company in 1947, and the Lions Club in 1948. Roads from the old Crawville days were renamed in 1951 to the familiar ones we see today. The Security and First Bank was established in 1956, Doctor James Lucie arrived in the late 1950's (followed by Dr. Robert Pierce), El Royal Restaurant and Fruitport Old Fashioned Days originated in 1961, and the racetrack in 1989.



Art Aldridge holding ancient Indian artifacts he dug up while the school on Pontaluna and 6th was being built in 1950.

Longtime resident Art Aldridge recalls the old days with somewhat astonishment. "We would bring our guns and our hunting traps to school, leave them at the office, and pick them up when we left...you (obviously) couldn't get away with stuff like that anymore."

On January 4, 1963, the entire West Michigan Area was shocked when the pavilion suddenly went up in smoke, totally destroyed. Police officer Larry Beck was one of the first responders to the scene and remembers it vividly. "The fire almost burned down the brand new fire truck," he wistfully recalled. The character of the Park was changed forever, but fresh blood brought in the Fruitport Public Library in 1964. A new band shell, site of today's generation of live music and entertainment, was erected in 1981 and sits near the site of the old pavilion. Old wooden posts from the pavilion, reminders of a glorious yesteryear, still protrude ominously from the waters.

Additional historical heart-breaking fires included the Fruitport Business District in 1900, Herron's Market in 1964, and the infamous Lappo Lumber Company fires in 1952, 1965 and the 1990's.

Old-timers remember the Township Hall building, 1911-2009 - which sat at the site of the current Veteran's Memorial Park on 3rd Ave. - with it's teen dances and roller skating. Tommy's Bar (which became Vaughn's Video) was great for hanging out, shooting pool and listening to bands. Other shenanigans included spearing for fish and fighting at the park across the street. Kids from the '80's recall the arcades at the old Bixby's Restaurant site, pinball machines at Annie's Restaurant and video games at the North Pole in Cloverville. Those days, locals would gather at the water cooler at Lundberg's to get the latest gossip, and there were often sightings of the Beckhorn sisters strolling about.

"Fruitport has always had lots of characters," grinned 94-year-old resident Hubert Lee Childers.

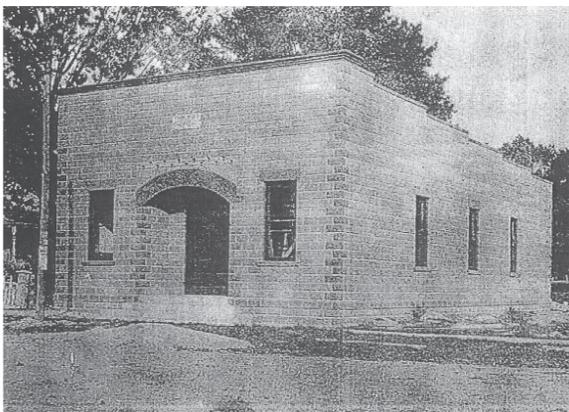
Today, the village population consists of around 1400 (with 13,500 in the 30 sq. mile surrounding township), and blueberries have long replaced the once-mighty peach for revenue. Construction of a state-of-the-art 50 million dollar high school is well under way, leading the charge for a prosperous and high-tech future. Activities for the 150th include: resurrecting the 1969 time capsule buried by Muskegon Sports Hall of Famer and Fruitport Samaritan, Jerry Alger (with contents to be displayed at the Village Pharmacy), a water ball contest by local firemen, and a milk jug race.

Muskegon's Consumer's Power in 1913. As the furnace industry phased out, Fruitport gave way to farming and tourism to generate revenue, while managing to cultivate the social spirit to the fullest extent. Population in those days was about 400, which eventually grew to 1000 by 1969.

1902 also proved to be a landmark in another style. That year, the posh Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon Interurban electric rail cars first ran to, and through, Fruitport along the old steam tracks. The Sabe Academy of Music opened the first motion picture theater in West Michigan across the street from the sparkling new 175'x100'



Pamona sign and park



The old Township Hall

Breakfast Specials
Mon. - Fri. starting at \$4.75 includes coffee

Lunch Specials Dinner Specials
Mon. - Fri. \$5.49 Mon. - Fri. \$7.49

Don't forget to enter our free weekly meal drawing!

A Local Family Restaurant

Cozy Corner Cafe
773-0011

3162 Hts. Ravenna Rd.

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7am to 7pm
Sat. & Sun. 7am to 2pm

With This Ring-

~SAME DAY RING SIZING~
~JEWELRY REPAIR~

Prenger's Jewelry Clinic

Our 37th Year!

10 - 50 % OFF

- Diamonds & Gemstone Jewelry
- Watch Repair
- Laser Eyeglass Frame Repair
- Custom Work
- Seiko "Melodies in Motion" Clocks
- Seiko - Watches

Save with Coupon

(231) 777-3380
2264 Apple Ave • Muskegon
Between Quarterline & Sheridan

FRUITPORT OLD FASHIONED DAYS
\$25 wristband tickets for \$20
Available thru 5pm May 21st • Good any day!

TIME CAPSULE
FRUITPORT AREA SESQUICENTENNIAL
— MAY 2019 —

Beneath this bench lies a brass capsule containing mementoes and history of Fruitport's first 150 years. Originally buried in 1969 and reopened in 2019, it is to be opened and examined again in May 2069 for Fruitport's Bicentennial Anniversary.

The plaque to be put on a bench overlooking the new time capsule

Through it all, the hard-working people of the community have always been known as tight-knit, with a low crime rate, a willingness to help their neighbors, and keep their community clean. A rugged sense of embodiment envelopes their way of life, school sports, boy scouts (which now includes girls), and gives them a unique ability to withstand climate, calamities and growing pains.

Its place in history firmly secure, Fruitport soldiers bravely forward.

Express Testing

FREE MEDICAL SERVICES

- Lab-quality Pregnancy Testing
- Limited Ultrasound
- Limited STD Testing & Treatment
- Education for Women & Men

FREE SUPPORT & MATERIAL SERVICES

231.726.2677 • 1775 Wells Ave
www.muskegonpregnancyservices.org