

End of the line nears for old railroad depot

Sally Ware mixes Spanish, cement in Mexico

Continued from page one

that he sold the last ticket to the grandson of Earl Britt, who rode from Cass City to Leonard, north of Pontiac. (He doesn't remember if that was on the 31st, however.)

McEachin, who grew up at Sheridan Corners (M-53 and Atwater Road), left Cass City in March, 1963, to become station agent in Kalamazoo. He was replaced here by Donald (Red) Smith, who was still agent here when the station closed in 1975. He is now retired and is or was living in Caseville, according to McEachin.

McEachin returned here to close the station, to remove the records and clean it out. The furniture was sold to Crossroads Village, near Flint, for its Huckleberry Railroad station.

ATTEMPTING TO PRESERVE the station was never more than a thought, according to Holly Althaver.

A representative of the Michigan Historic Division visited here in 1976, and said the two most historic links with Cass City's past were the grain elevators on Vulcan Street, built in the 1880s (also to be torn down this year) and the railroad sta-

tion. Nothing happened after that. Working against the preservation of the rail depot, she said, was the desire by village officials (of whom her husband is one) to have it torn down to improve visibility of motorists at the Garfield Street crossing and the fact that the depot -- compared to some in other communities -- isn't architecturally unique.



WALT H. MILLER, Grand Trunk station agent, was in Cass City from 1940-55.



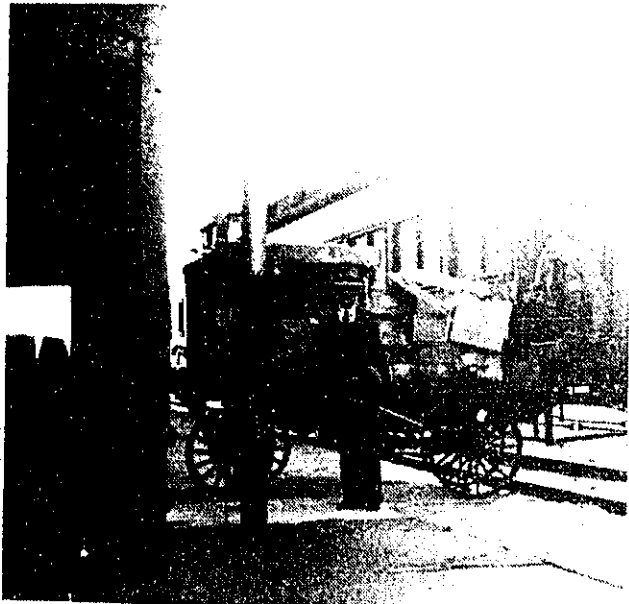
ORIGINAL DEPOT? -- This may have been the original Pontiac, Oxford and Northern depot in Cass City. Meredith Auten believes it burned down.



FINAL DAYS -- The present depot at Garfield and Vulcan Streets, soon to be torn down, was apparently built in 1907.



LAST TRIP for these Cass City youngsters on the Grand Trunk passenger train was some time in 1955. From left are Jane MacLachlan, now living in Florida; station agent Angus McEachin; Lynn Taylor (now Babich, of Deford), and Eric Esau, now living in Amherst, Mass.



UNLOADING FREIGHT at the Cass City depot, sometime between 1940-55. Standing in front is station agent Walt H. Miller.

Photos courtesy of Jack and Ruth Esau and Marian Keating.



SCHOOL TRIP -- It was in May, 1948, that Cass City Elementary School kindergarten teacher Ruth Schenck (now Mrs. Jack Esau) took her class on a train trip from Cass City to Deford. She is at the extreme right; next to her is helper Mary Ann Vargo (now Cooper). Standing by the window in back (hatless) is then school Supt. Willis Campbell. Next to him is bus driver Dan DeLong, who met the group at Deford. They stopped for a picnic lunch on their way back.

Michigan primary still uncertain

By Warren M. Hoyt
Mich. Press Association

Michigan's May presidential primary election will have little, if anything, to say about the committed delegates to the national conventions, unless the current deadlock between the legislature and the Democratic party can be resolved.

The national party adopted rules requiring a "closed" primary, where voters must at least declare in which party's primary they intend to vote. All states were then required to comply or delegate selection via the election process would be disallowed.

Michigan's open primary, where voters can cross-over and vote for candidates either in the Democratic or Republican primary, did not qualify.

The national party ruled that Michigan either change the law for a closed primary or delegate selection would

take place in party caucuses.

THE LEGISLATURE was unable to make the changes. The Senate voted for the changes but the House objected and, in fact, voted to eliminate the presidential primary altogether.

Moreover, Gov. William G. Milliken declared early in the legislative process he was unilaterally opposed to changing Michigan's open primary methods and said he would deliver a veto if such a bill to change the system reached him for signature.

Thus, the stalemate. Similar activities have taken place in Wisconsin, another state with an open primary.

That state's Supreme Court upheld the validity of the open primary and is proceeding with plans to hold the election.

The Democratic National Committee, meanwhile, intends to file an appeal to attempt to reverse Wisconsin's high court ruling.

CERTAIN SENATE leaders want Attorney General Frank Kelley to file suit against the national committee rules to bring some direct meaning to Michigan's primary election results.

However, after nearly two hours of discussion, the Senate Democratic majority was unable to make any decision as to whether to proceed with a resolution calling for the attorney general to file the suit.

Olivia Maynard, chairperson of the Michigan Democratic Party, appeared before the caucus to oppose the resolution, saying the national rules were adopted for due process, fair reflection and affirmative action in the delegate selection process, which would be threatened if the Wisconsin primary decision, or a similar decision in other states, would stand.

SHE SAID THE so-called open primary is open to mischief, irresponsible voting and game playing and would not necessarily reflect the will of the voters. She concluded delegates in Michigan would be selected

by party caucus, that if their selection took place in an open primary, it would be wrong and their seating at the national convention would be subject to challenge.

Meanwhile, candidates for the nation's top elective office probably won't do much campaigning in Michigan as voters will, in the final analysis, have little to say in delegate selection.

FREE TUITION

Final legislative approval has been given to a bill permitting governing boards of community and junior colleges to waive tuition for senior citizens.

Trustees of the colleges can waive tuition requirements, for any student, age 60 or older, who has graduated from high school and met the other requirements of the college.

Permitting the waiver is voluntary.

What kind of college course enabled Sally Ware to improve her Spanish and learn how to mix cement? It was one she took in January -- in Mexico.

The 19-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ware of 6581 Third Street, Cass City, is a sophomore at Spring Arbor College, south of Jackson.

The college has a unique program, designed to give students some off-campus practical learning experience.

The first and second semesters each school year on campus are divided by a one-month interim term each January, during which time students concentrate on one subject, via either a work-study program in the field, travel or intensive study.

The 1978 graduate of Cass City High School studied Spanish for three years in high school and has continued her study of the language at Spring Arbor.

She spent the interim term in January, 1979, at the University of Seville in Spain studying Spanish.

Last month she went with eight fellow students plus three chaperones (a Spanish teacher and a seminary student and his wife) on a missionary work project to Mexico.

Spring Arbor is run by the Free Methodist church, accordingly, the project involved working with Free Methodist churches in Mexico. (Sally is a Baptist, but says there is no conflict.)

The group departed from Spring Arbor via van Jan. 3. The trip down and back took four days each way. Other than one night spent at Greenville College in Illinois (coming and going), the other nights were spent sleeping in church basements in sleeping bags.

THE FIRST FOUR stops in Mexico were the small towns of San Pedro,

San Rafael, Santa Lucia and Chavez, in the "northern middle" part of the country, with four days being spent in each town.

In each, the program was about the same, with the Americans conducting a Bible School for young school children in the late afternoon each day, with a varied program for older youngsters and adults each evening. All was conducted in Spanish.

The Bible schools, for ages 4-12 had total attendance of from 30-120 youngsters. The sessions included Bible lessons, singing and handicrafts.

The evening programs consisted of sermons, singing, films and giving of testimonials.

The presence of the Americans, publicized in advance, boosted attendance at all the churches they were at, according to Miss Ware.

By our standards, the Mexican people the Spring Arbor group came in contact with were poor, Miss Ware explained, but, "They accepted us. We learned a lot from each other." In Mexico, the Americans stayed in private homes.

In addition to the religious programs, except in one town, the Americans also spent time painting buildings.

THE FREE METHODIST church, according to Sally, is "growing a lot" in Mexico.

To help it grow, the fifth stop was at the town of Torreon, where the group helped build a church by pouring the cement floor. They were there three days.

The cement was mixed in what had been a steel drum, with an axle running through it so it revolved. The cement was loaded into wheelbarrows and then dumped where the floor was being formed.

The church to be wasn't very large, a little bigger

than a two-car garage.

Time was also spent painting the local pastor's house and in the evening, a religious program was conducted like those in the other towns.

The final three days were spent viewing the sights in and near Mexico City, including the pyramids, musical concert, folklore ballet and a bullfight. There was also time for shopping.

The group returned to Spring Arbor Feb. 1. After a brief stay at home, Sally went back there Feb. 5 for the start of second semester classes the next day.

THE TRIP COST EACH student \$150 for food, lodging, gasoline, etc., plus spending money. They received college credit.

Her month spent in Mexico, she said, helped her improve her Spanish a lot. "I had to adjust it from the Spanish I learned in Spain to the Spanish I learned in Mexico."

The difference, she explained, would be akin to the difference between English spoken in this country and in England. The accents are different and the meaning of some words is different. The Spanish she had learned in the classroom was more like the language of Spain.

She also discovered there are different accents in the various parts of Mexico.

At Spring Arbor, she is majoring in math, but plans to transfer to Michigan State University for her junior and senior years, where she will study chemical engineering. She has hopes her knowledge of Spanish may prove useful in the future, possibly by working for a company with branches in Spanish speaking countries.

"Sometimes experiences outside the classroom are a better way to learn," she said of her sojourn to Mexico.

It also had another benefit. Temperatures there were in the 70-80 degree range each day.



BACK FROM MEXICO -- Examining a vase is Sally Ware. It and the other vase, blanket and small jewelry box were purchased in Mexico during her trip there in January.

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