

Time Tracs by Jim Ingram

(The first of a two part series on A Walk with Lillian Perry Down Flint Street in 1893)

Last year when I was interviewing Mildred Perry Halt Laser about her recollections of Lake Orion, she gave me a description of Flint Street her grandmother had written.

Lillian Perry wrote this in 1948 to commemorate the 55th anniversary of her marriage to Adam Perry.

This walk along Flint Street in 1893 begins at the Orion and Miller Road intersection on the south side of Flint and proceeds to the west.

She mentions the Horace Tinkers were residents of this section of East Flint, but doesn't specify the house.

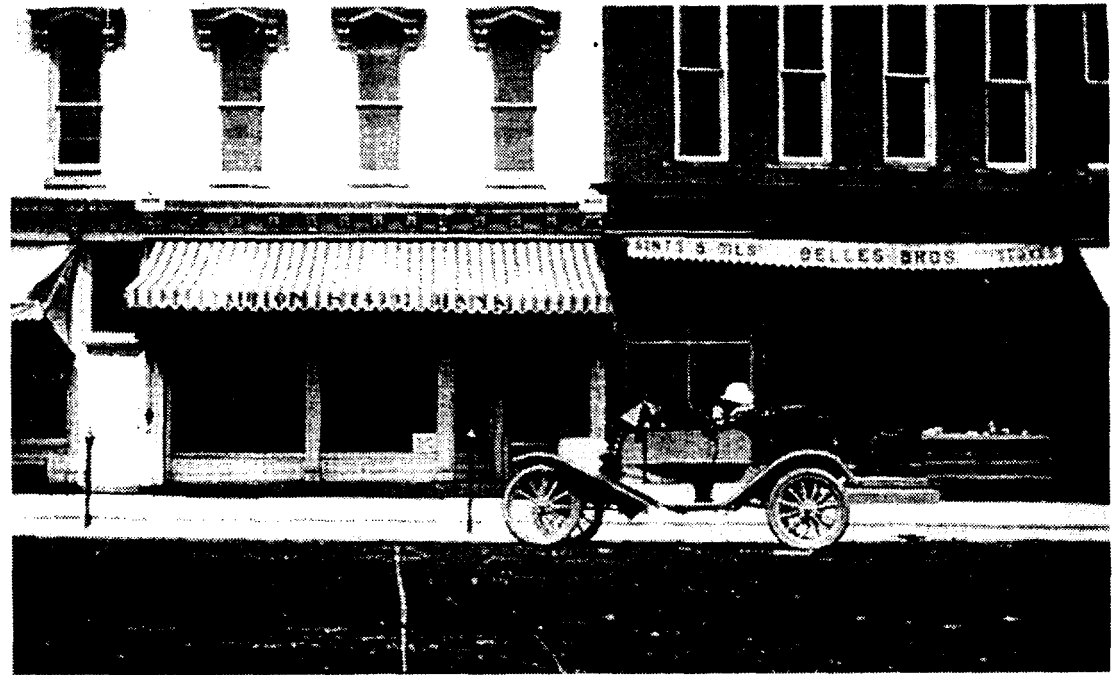
The first house she notes was on the southwest corner of Flint and what is now Perry Street. It was then the home of the John Kuschinski family and later the John Hessler family.

Just to the west of this was the cider mill at Paint Creek which many of us have heard mentioned over the years. It was then owned by my great uncle Will Belles who lived across the street. Both the cider mill and the Kuschinski house have been torn down.

The next house is on the jog at 310 East Flint. This house was built for Adam and Lillian Perry by Ed Graves in the mid 1890s. The Davis house had previously occupied this site.

The Bradford house was the only one in the next block and has been torn down. The block from Slater Street west to Anderson on the south side of East Flint was vacant.

The house at 44 East Flint (the current McNeil Veterinary Clinic) was occupied by the Barrs in 1893. The house to the west of 44 was occupied by Frank Boice, the village marshal, and before that



French building on left, Belles building on right. Picture circa 1910.

was owned by Art Hammond. It has been torn down.

The building on the southeast corner of Flint and Broadway (3 Broadway and 14 Flint) was the Commercial House hotel and bar. It was run by Jud Hay, later by Homer Taylor. The building later burned.

The southwest corner of Flint and Broadway was occupied by a small house owned by Graves and later remodeled by Dr. A.M. Watson. This site is now occupied by the building at 2 South Broadway (Ed's Broadway Gift Company).

West of this was a brick house owned by Joseph Brown and later remodeled by Max Wichman. It is likely this building still exists at 45

and 47 West Flint.

Across Lapeer Street was the Michigan Central Railroad Park with the Methodist Church on the west side of it. The Methodist Church was built on Flint Street in 1873 and moved to its current location on the corner of East Flint and Slater Streets in 1902.

The Michigan Central Railroad station was just to the south of the church along the railroad tracks. The tracks in this section ran just to the east of the current M-24 roadbed.

The north/south road through Orion Village in 1893 was Broadway to Elizabeth Street to what is now M-24 and north to Oxford. The M-24 bypass around the village was built in 1939.