

Time Tracs by Jim Ingram

(The second 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.

Occupying the triangular lot on the corner of West Flint and Lake Streets (now part of Orion Marine) was the Lake family home (formerly Mrs. Abe Deere). Lake Street had not been built in 1893 and this lot went from Flint Street to the lake.

The red brick house at 189 West Flint was owned by Gleason Perry. Going west on the south side of West Flint was Dan Farrels at 197 West Flint, McCanns at 203 West Flint, Hogarths at 211 West Flint, Sage at 221 West Flint, Charlie Fisher at 229 West Flint and Seth Hunt's mother at 247 West Flint.

This row of houses would be some of the oldest left in the village in the year 2000.

In 1893 Flint Street ended at Andrews Street. In the middle of what is now West Flint stood a little red brick house where Hugh Grant Sr. lived. It was later moved one and a half blocks west on the north side at 328 West Flint.

On the north side of West Flint, staring at Andrews Street and going east was John Skinners at 246 West Flint, Hiram Skinners torn down, John Hopkins at 230 West Flint and the Beebe house, later owned by Charles Collins at 206 West Flint.

Going east from Beebe Street came Myron Skinners at 190 West Flint, Will Watson at 176 West Flint, Mrs. Anne Riskey at 170-172 West Flint and Asa Owens at 164 West Flint.

Across the railroad tracks was O'Brien Lumber and Coal. It is the present site of National City Bank at 88 West Flint. Just to the east of this was the site of the De Cou Cancer Institute, later to become the Arlington Hotel. It has been torn down.

Next door was the home of Dr. De Cou in the 1890s. The house had been built by Needham Hemingway in the 1840s.

It became Lake Orion's first library in 1946. This house was torn down to build the current phone company building at 60 West Flint.

The house at 46 West Flint was occupied by the Oscar Perrys in the 1890s. It is on the northeast corner of Flint and Lapeer Streets. East of that was the Home Laundry. The building has been torn down.

At 24 and 16 West Flint was Mr. French's furniture store and funeral home. He built this build-



The De Cou Cancer Institute was just east of the present site of National City Bank.

ing in 1881.

On the north west corner of Flint and Broadway at 12 and 2 West Flint was the Belles Brothers general store with Belles Hall on the second floor. This building had been built by my great grandfather John C. Belles and his brother Andrew J. Belles in 1881.

On the northeast corner of Flint and Broadway was the town pump. Lillian reports that the water was nice and cold and she always stopped for a drink on the way from the farm. East of this was a blacksmith shop, Moon's Livery, which was later moved to the southeast corner of Front and Broadway.

The house at 111 East Flint belonged to Hiram Andrews. It is the current Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home.

On the northeast corner of East Flint and Slater Streets at 209 East Flint was the George Swayze house, later to become the Griggs house. The next house to the east at 231 East Flint was occupied by Jud Hay in the 1890s.

The house on the east side of the jog at 8 East Flint was owned by the Shoemaker family. Lillian reports it's the oldest house in the village and it was once a school. Today a plaque affixed to the house is dated 1838.

The house at 337 East Flint was occupied by a Mrs. Spencer in the 1890s. Later the Kibbe family lived there.

The next house on the north side of Flint was at 437 East Flint and was owned by William Belles, who also owned the cider mill across the street.

The last house mentioned by Lillian on the north side of East Flint is almost to Miller Road at 573 East Flint. In the 1890s it may have been owned by John Sims and later was owned by John's son Charles and his wife Mina.

This house has been well preserved including the barn at the rear of the property. It probably looks today much the same as when it was built.

As we end our walk with Lillian Perry it should be noted that is wasn't paved. That occurred in 1926.