



Flushing Area Historical Society

810-487-0814

431 W. Main St. • Flushing, Michigan 48433 •

Facebook: [Flushing Area Historical Society & Museum](#)

Fall Hours

Sundays, 1 – 4 PM

Tuesdays, 9 AM -1 PM

and by appointment

Closed holiday weeks

For information, call or e-mail:

810-487-0814 fahs@att.net

Museum 810-487-0814

Museum tours & building use:

Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

Membership,

Robert Davies 810-624-0278

Donation of artifacts:

Call Museum 810-487-0814

President,

Dan Anderson: 810-686-6669

Board of Directors:

President:

Dan Anderson 810-686-6669

Vice President:

Matt Hartmann 810-210-1518

Secretary: Paul Morgan

Treasurer: Robert Davies

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Term expires Dec. 31

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Mary MacDonald 2026

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Jim Wood, Chairman 810-659-0494

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Flushing Area Historical Society (The Depot)

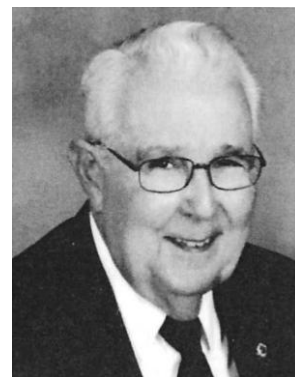
431 W. Main St. at the R.R. track

Monday, November 17, 2025, 7 PM

The Flushing Lion's Club

What Is the Lion's Club and What Do They Do

Presented by Larry Porn



Larry's family moved to Flushing in 1949, and he has lived here ever since. As a youth, Larry entered the first Flint Science Fair with a Radio-Controlled Model Boat and won a blue ribbon. He played football and basketball for Flushing High School and graduated in 1957. Larry attended Flint Junior College (Mott), then transferred to Michigan State University where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. After completing an internship, he was hired by AC Sparkplug. Larry helped develop many of the computer controls in our modern-day cars. He retired from General Motors in 1996.

Larry joined the Lion's Club in the early 1970's. He served in several positions of the club, including President in 1982. He served as District Governor in 1990 and currently serves as secretary.

The Flushing Lions Club was chartered in 1942 and has been serving the Flushing community since that time. The main objective of the Lions Club is to first serve the local community. In 1925 Helen Keller asked Lions Clubs International to become Knights of the Blind.

Notes from Dan's Desk:

First, I want to provide an update for you. George Saucier became ill and could not do his presentation on St. Robert Catholic Church & School in October. Fortunately, Don Wilson was able to fill in with a power point program on Flushing postcards and a history of the Depot. We hope to have George back in the Spring for his presentation. We will keep you updated in the Newsletter for more details.

Welcome to November. Can you believe that the year 2025 is almost over? Yet here we are getting ready for Candlewalk and redecorating the Museum. Candlewalk this year will be held on December 4th and 5th from 6 to 9 PM. The Lionel trains will be running and the Depot will be decorated with all new Christmas displays. We will also be open the following three Sundays from 1 to 4 PM and running the trains for your enjoyment. If you have an "O" or "027" gauge train, you are welcome to run on it on our tracks any of these Sundays.

As we close out this year, I want to thank you, the members, for all your support this past year. Whether you attended a meeting or donated to the Museum, it's great to have a membership that supports us. Thank you for being members of our historical society and supporting local history.

We are looking forward to 2026 and America's yearlong birthday celebration. Here at the museum, we will also be celebrating all year long. The volunteers are working on the new displays for the America 250 and we are grateful to the community for bringing in your photos. The "Wall of Fame" will be just inside the door as you come in. Come see your friends and family and learn about their lives. The rest of the Museum will have different displays telling the story of the United States, Michigan and Flushing. So come and visit us and celebrate with us. We look forward to seeing you next year to help us celebrate. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you next year.

Museum will be closed after the last running of the trains on Sunday, December 21 for vacation and replacing displays. There are no newsletters in December or January. Winter hours will resume in February on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm or by appointment. Meetings will resume on the third Monday of the month on February 16 with our ever popular "Show and Tell". Watch for the February newsletter for more details.



Do you remember the train derailment December 6, 1978? There was no chemical spill and no one was injured. The only damage was to the track and the driveway of the former restaurant.

Flushing Bank robbery, Bandits captured and convicted.

(continued from October newsletter)

June 30, 1938

No Trace Found of Bank Bandits

No trace has been found as yet of three armed bandits who held up the Flushing First State Bank Wednesday of last week and escaped with \$4,285.21.

The loss to the bank was paid Monday by its insurance company of Detroit.

Michael Pajtas, bank assistant cashier, who was slugged on the head by a bandit, is now much improved. X-rays taken last week showed a break in the bone above his cheek bone, about eye level, believed not to be serious. Two Flushing witnesses whose names are being withheld by police, were in Detroit one day last week and in Chicago Monday of this week to see persons police had captured and who were suspected of the Flushing hold-up. No identification was established.

July 14, 1938

Two arrested in Local Bank Robbery Case Pair now Being Held at Detroit Pending a Hearing July 16, Bank Robbed June 22

Two men are under arrest in Detroit accused of the robbery of the First State & Savings Bank, of Flushing, on June 22.

They are Arden Cousineau, 34, of Detroit, proprietor of a beer garden, and Ivan Smith, 33, of Alpena. The two were taken into custody last Wednesday by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State Police.

Cousineau was arrested in his place of business in Detroit, and Smith was seized in a cabin near Alpena. \$1,004 was found by officers, \$650 from the premises of Cousineau and \$354 in the cabin of Smith, believed to be part of the loot of \$4,285.21 taken from the local bank.

Arraigned Friday afternoon before United States Commissioner J. Stanley Hurd, in Detroit, the two men pleaded not guilty to the charge; they were put under bonds of \$50,000 each and examination was set for this Saturday, July 16.

The two men are accused of violating three counts of the national bank robbery act, The pair is believed to have participated in the holdup here when three men held up the First State Bank shortly after noon, Wednesday, June 22, slugged Michael Pajtas, assistant bank cashier, and Fred Russell, bus line operator, who entered the bank on business. The men escaped with the loot of over \$4,000.

May 18, 1939

Two Found Guilty of Local Bank Robbery A. Cousineau, G. Jazasik Convicted Wednesday at Bay City Court Sentences Are Deferred

Arden Cousineau, 34, Detroit beer garden proprietor, and George Jozwaik, 24, of Detroit, a former convict, were found guilty Wednesday by a federal court jury at Bay City of the robbery of \$4,285.21 from the First State & Savings Bank at Flushing on June 22, 1938. Sentence was deferred until an investigation by parole authorities has been completed.

The men were tried before Federal Judge Arthur J. Tuttle at Bay City. The case went to the jury, consisting of five men and seven women, shortly before noon yesterday.

The local bank was held up at 12:30 Wednesday, on the above named date. Three bandits entered the bank and a fourth was believed to have remained in their car parked in front.

After forcing Michael Pajtas, assistant cashier who was alone in the bank at the time, to open the vault, the bandits fled after slugging Mr. Pajtas and Fred Russell, local bus line operator, who had entered the bank on business. The men made a clean escape, but were arrested early in July.

C. P. Rowe, cashier of the local bank, and Mr. Pajtas and Mr. Russell testified at the trial at Bay City Tuesday morning.

Mr. Rowe's testimony was concerned only with various matters about the bank and the loss. Mr. Pajtas identified Jozwaik as the bandit

who approached him at the teller's cage, forced him to open the vault and who slugged him on the back of the head with the butt of his gun as the assistant cashier was lying on the floor.

Mr. Russell identified Cousineau as the bandit who halted him as he entered the bank and who hit him on the head after ordering him to lie down back of a swinging gate in the office at the front of the bank.

Rev. Fr. Joseph P. Starks, of Flint, pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, testified he deposited money in the Flushing Bank including a roll of dimes with the name of his church on it.

Federal and state authorities testified that when they arrested Cousineau in his Detroit beer garden July 6 of last year, they found this money in the original wrapper.

No defense witnesses were called for Cousineau and Jozwaik. Counsel for the defense was appointed by Judge Tuttle.

Cousineau and Jozwaik were charged with three federal offenses, robbery of a bank, assaulting the assistant cashier, and assaulting a customer.

The two men drew sentences of 62 years each last Friday at Federal court in Detroit for the robbery of the State Savings Bank at Yale in 1938 and the Centerline Branch of First State Savings Bank at Warren in 1937.

Sentenced with time for a similar term was Ivan Smith, 33, of Detroit, who, when arrested last year, was believed to have been involved in the Flushing robbery.

Smith, Jozwaik, Christopher Moran, of Detroit, and Edward Brooks, of Flint, are charged with robbing the Birch Run State Savings Bank in 1937. Smith and Brooks pleaded guilty, and Judge Tuttle set June 1 as the date for the trial of Jozwaik and Moran, who pleaded not guilty. Credit for running down a gang of bandits who had robbed a number of banks in this vicinity has been given to Lieutenant Joseph M. Sheridan, of the detective division of the state Police.

Working on a tip from Ionia prison, Sheridan talked with another inmate of Ionia, Ernest Ford, 30, of Flint, and the resulting investigation broke open a whole series of bank robberies in this vicinity and resulted in the arrest of several men including those just convicted of the Flushing holdup.

June 8, 1939

Bank Robbers Get Sentences

Prison Sentences of 25 years each were given George Jozwaik, 24 and Arden Cousineau, 34, both of Detroit, by Federal Judge Arthur J. Tuttle at Bay City, Tuesday, for the robbery of \$4,285.21 from the First State Bank & Savings Bank of Flushing on June 22, 1939.

Jozwaik was also found guilty of robbing the Birch Run State Bank on July 17, 1937, and drew a 25 year sentence for this holdup.

Others involved in the Birch Run holdup were Christopher Moran, of Burt who was found guilty and drew a 50 year sentence. Ivan Smith, 34, of Alpena, and Edward Brooks, 32, of Flint, pleaded guilty to this robbery, each drawing a 25 year sentence.

Cousineau, Jozwaik and Smith drew sentences of 62 years each in Federal Court at Detroit some time ago for participation in the robbery of banks at Yale and Warren. Jozwaik is now faced with sentences totaling 112 years, and Cousineau 87.

Several crimes in this general vicinity are laid to this gang of bandits and further revelations as to the operation of the gang over a period of several years are being made.

The Lionell Trains will be in operation during Candlewalk, Thursday & Friday, December 4th & 5th from 6:30 to 9 PM and the following 3 Sundays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 from 1 to 4 PM. Admission is free.



The layout is 8" x 16" with 2 tracks on the outside for the larger trains and 2 tracks inside for the smaller trains. In addition, there is a trolley circling the village. There are remote controls so children can control the trolley and the village lights.

Thank you: We wish to express thanks to all our members who donate money to the Flushing Area Historical Society in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is placed in a trust fund and the interest received helps with the expenses and operation of the Depot. The Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt, non-profit Michigan Corporation. There were no memorials received in the past month.

Check the mailing sticker on your newsletter for your renewal date. If it is highlighted, it is now due. Thanks to those who pay for two or three years as this saves a considerable amount of paperwork. We print 8 newsletters a year: Feb. - June and Sept. - Nov. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail when renewing, fill out the "e-mail" line at the bottom of the membership form below. Make sure that fahs@att.net is in your address book so it does not end up in the "spam" folder.

-----cut here-----

☐ please send membership card. ☐ new member ☐ renewal		Flushing Area Historical Society 431 W. Main St. Flushing, MI 48433-2035	
Name _____		Date: _____	
Address: _____		Phone: (____) _____	
City: _____ State: _____		Zip: _____ - _____	
Senior	1 year \$4____, 2y \$8____, 3y \$12____	Supporting	1 year \$10____, 2y \$20____
Individual	1 year \$5____, 2y \$10____, 3y \$15____	Contributing	1 year \$25____, 2y \$50____
Family	1 year \$7____, 2y \$14____, 3y \$21____	Business	1 year \$10____, 2y \$20____
		Sustaining	1 year \$100.00____
		Life membership	\$150.00____

Make checks payable to: "Flushing Area Historical Society"

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431 W Main St

Flushing MI 48433-2035

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2025

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Moving?

Vacation?

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From (date)_____ to (date)_____, please send to:

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