

# Living History

Second Quarter 2016

April-June

## Downton Abbey Era Fashion Show and Tea

Join us Sunday, May 15th, 2016, 1:30 pm, as we embark on a journey of fashion through history.

Presented by the curators of “Fashion And The Automobile”: Victoria Mobley, Lynn Anderson, and Elaine Vermeersch, this special program will detail changing fashions from the era of the popular TV series *Downton Abbey*, that started with the sinking of the Titanic and saw the drastic changes in dress and manners through World War I and into the Roaring Twenties. Our show will include fashions from the past and present, as what’s old becomes new again.

Join us at City Hall for tea, dessert, and an afternoon of fashionable nostalgia. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$8 for society members, and may be purchased at the museum, or through Eventbrite at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Proceeds support the Clawson Historical Museum.



from John Martin's Book, *The Child's Magazine*  
March, 1920

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## New Exhibit Opens with Preview Party

The museum's newest exhibit "The General Store, 1900-1935" opened to a full house on February 6th.

Over 70 people attended the Saturday night preview to get a first look at the new exhibit and enjoyed desserts, coffee and punch.



The exhibit focuses on how people shopped in the early decades of the 20th century, contrasted with how we shop today, including mail order catalogs that sold a variety of items, including houses.

Several photographs of Clawson stores are included, along with dozens of interesting artifacts, from razors and cosmetics to pots, pans, tools and even chicken feed.

The exhibit will be open through the year during the museum's new open hours, Wednesday 5-8 p.m. and Sunday 2-5 p.m.

## Thank you donors

Cheryl Thornton

David Smith

Stephanie Whitelam

Ginny Schalm

*Special thanks to donors who helped with our VIP Preview Party:*

Kahve

Due Venti

Stitch in Time Tailor Shop

Julian Brothers Bakery

Barb's Pasties

Miriam Brewer

Julie Martz

Barb Hayes

## Clawson Historical Society Membership and Renewal

### Clawson Historical Society

#### Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter via: email \_\_\_\_\_  
regular mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities :

I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

Clawson Historical Society  
425 N. Main Street, Clawson, Michigan 48017  
248-588-9169  
[www.clawsonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.clawsonhistoricalsociety.org)

CLAWSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
41 FISHER COURT

MAILING ADDRESS: 425 N. MAIN STREET,  
CLAWSON MI 48017

PHONE: 248-588-9169  
FAX 248-588-9169

EMAIL: HISTORICALMUSEUM@CITYOFCLAWSON.COM

MUSEUM OPEN WEDNESDAY 5-8 P.M. AND  
SUNDAY, 2-5 P.M., EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.  
ADMISSION IS FREE  
GROUP TOURS BY APPOINTMENT



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE  
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Clawson Historical Museum Purposes and Policies

The Clawson Historical Museum is owned by the City of Clawson. It is governed by a Historical Commission of five members appointed by the Clawson City Council. It is managed by a curator appointed by the City Manager. Its operating budget is funded through the City of Clawson and augmented by generous donations from the Clawson Historical Society.

**Museum Purpose:** The Clawson Historical Museum exists to collect, preserve and encourage the use of documents, photographs and artifacts related to the early history of Clawson, from its settlement in 1823 to the present, focusing especially on the decade of the 1920s, when Clawson Incorporated as a Home Rule Village.

**Collections:** Historical records include those related to area public and civic organizations, as well as personal oral histories of residents, property abstracts, school and business records and thousands of photographs documenting Clawson's buildings, homes, streets, and the changes they have undergone through the decades. Also included in the collection are maps, almanacs, and contemporary published materials such as newspapers, books, magazines and periodicals that reflect the culture of the 1920s.

These materials are available to the public for research on genealogy, property history, environmental investigations and other personal interests. Student research is especially encouraged. ❖

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**FRESH AIR AND PHYSICAL FITNESS**

Fresh air is quite literally the breath of life. Mankind can live for days without food, for hours without water; but deprived of air, for even a few moments, we perish. Good ventilation is therefore the most important principle in all hygiene. An abundant supply of fresh, moist, cool air is absolutely essential to our well being. The amount of harm done in lowered vitality and consequent susceptibility to disease and to vigor of body and mind by living in close, overheated rooms cannot be estimated.

Yet many Americans ...try as far as possible to live during cold weather in rooms hermitically sealed and kept at a temperature at least ten and often fifteen degrees above that which every normal person should insist up if he values his health.

Overheated rooms represent also a great waste of fuel. Fresh air is easier to heat, and a moderately cool room, with air kept in circulation, makes the heat go twice as far.

...all living rooms should be thoroughly aired several times a day, doors and windows being thrown wide open so that cross currents will sweep through the place.

...we are all too prone to enervate ourselves by excessively heated rooms. A temprate of 65, or even 60, the ideal degree of heat, is seldom found either in home or office in this country, which prides itself upon the perfection of its modern conveniences and progressiveness.

We know it is easier...to soften conditions for ourselves...than to harden ourselves to conditions. Perhaps...the old fashioned ideas that cold was somehow harmful and that fresh air was merely cold air explains it...whatever the cause, not only colds but many other detriments to physical fitness result.

-excerpts from *Fresh Air and Physical Fitness*, by Clara D. Noyes, Director of Nursing Service, American Red Cross, Woman's Weekly March 4, 1922.

## Holiday Hours

The museum will be closed:

Sunday March 27th - Easter

Sunday May 29th - Memorial Day

Sunday July 3th - Independence Day

Sunday August 21st - Summer

Vacation

Sunday September 4th - Labor Day

Wednesday September 14th - Staff  
training conference

Wednesday Nov. 23rd & Sunday Nov.  
27th - Thanksgiving

Sunday December 25th through  
January, reopening Wednesday

February 1st, 2017

### PLEASE NOTE

THE MUSEUM WILL NOT BE OPEN WHEN  
CLAWSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE  
CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

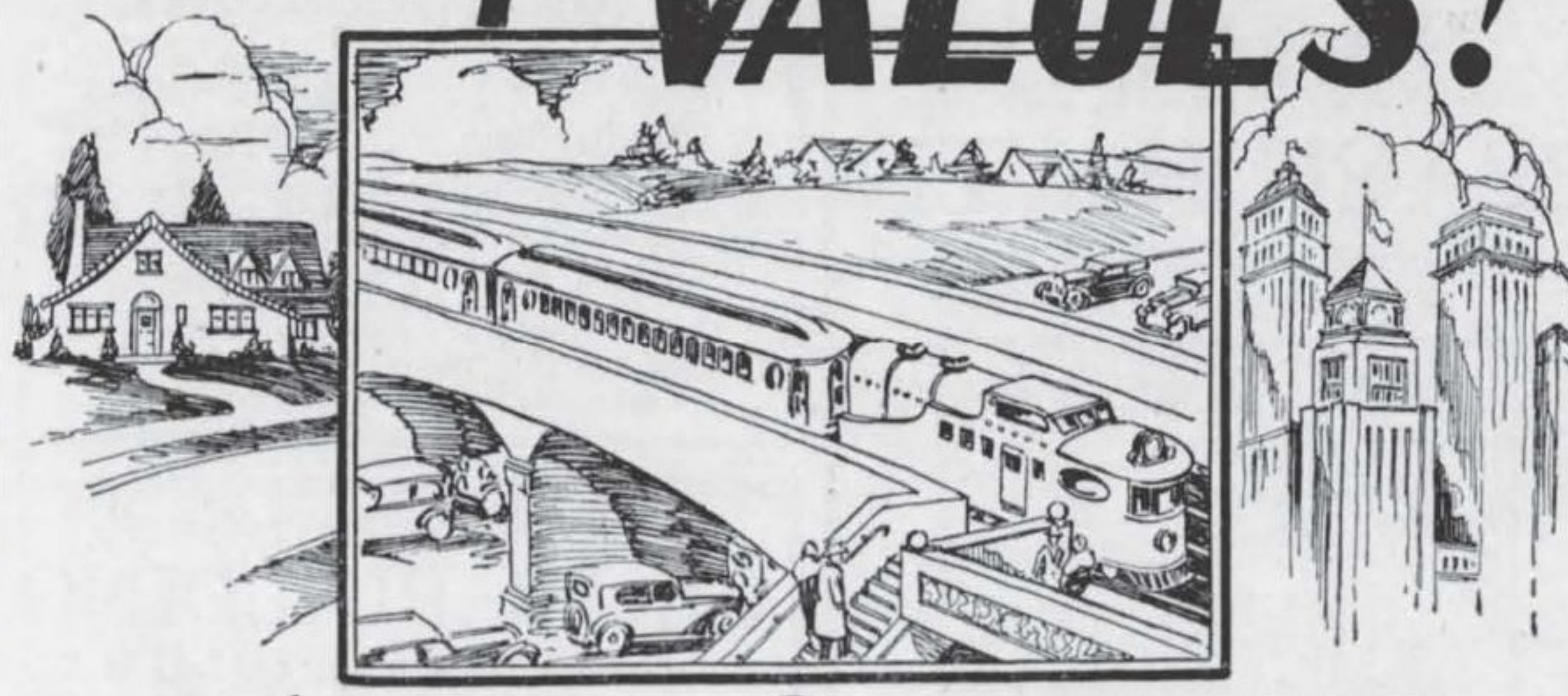
## A Special Legacy Donation

A heartfelt thank you to Cheryl Thornton for donating the Clawson High School 2003 yearbook to the museum. The yearbook belonged to Cheryl's son, Jason, who passed away earlier this year.

Jason, a 2003 graduate of Clawson High, was a skilled machinist and worked for Humanetics Auto Solutions for 12 years.



**RAPID TRANSIT**  
*brings* **VALUES!**



**AERO GARDENS**

*In the Pathway of Detroit's  
First Rapid Transit System*

AERO GARDENS possesses many characteristics which are not found in the average suburban development. It has the definite advantage of being only three-quarters of a mile from the new Grand Trunk Rapid Transit Right-of-Way and yet is far enough removed to have that environment which is so essential for an ideal home site. With the completion of this new Rapid Transit System unexcelled transportation will be close at hand. Today, distance is measured by time, not in miles. What a change modern transportation will make in this area. Increasing demand for property out North Woodward is already enhancing values. Aero Gardens has established its premier position from a residential viewpoint, it also offers a sound investment. This property is priced so it is available to persons of moderate means.



**Dunham-Folks Company**  
*Realtors*  
1840 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
Cad 4441 ~ Detroit.

Dunham-Folks Company,  
1840 First National Bank Bldg.,  
Detroit, Mich.  
Gentlemen—Without obligating me,  
please send descriptive literature of  
Aero Gardens.  
Name.....  
Address.....  
City.....

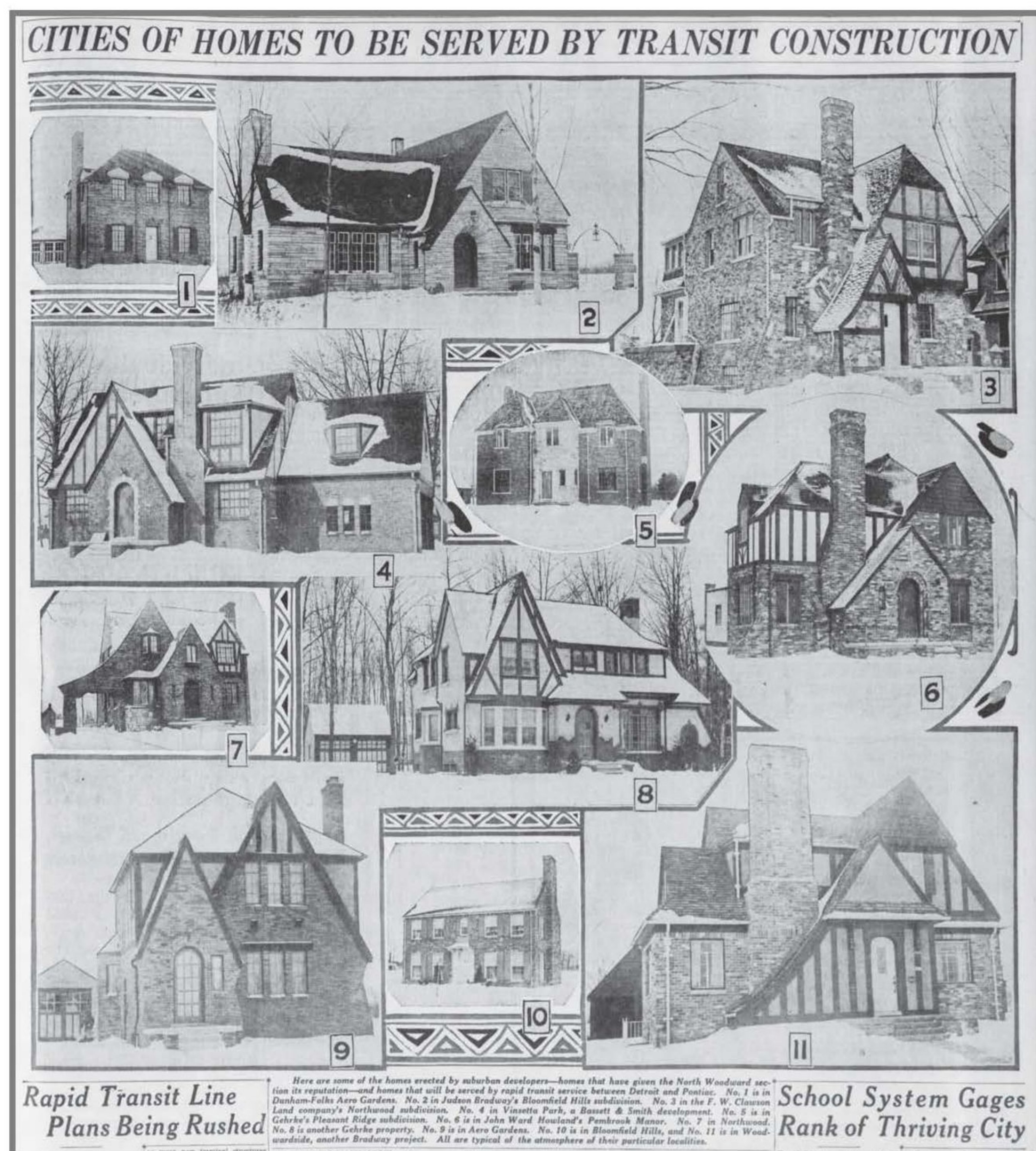
As the City of Detroit makes progress with the M1 Light Rail system, its fun to look back and see how rapid transit affected daily life nearly 100 years ago. The above article from the April 28, 1929 Detroit Free Press touts the advantages of a rapid transit system that was proposed in the early 1920s, that would have been faster and more convenient than the Interurbans. The prospect of this system was instrumental in the development of many neighborhoods, including Aero Gardens in Clawson. Read more about this neighborhood on page 5 & 6.



A young man with a great sense of humor, he was always willing to help, and donated a large collection of Legos to the Blair Memorial Library. Jason loved history, his mother says, and the yearbook donation is a proper way to remember him. The yearbook completes the museum's collection of High school yearbooks dating back to 1933.

## Old House Update

Thanks to the research of Andrew and Wendy Mutch, who are fast becoming stars in the Kit House research game, we have these wonderful articles from the Detroit Free Press that show several houses in Clawson shortly after they were built.

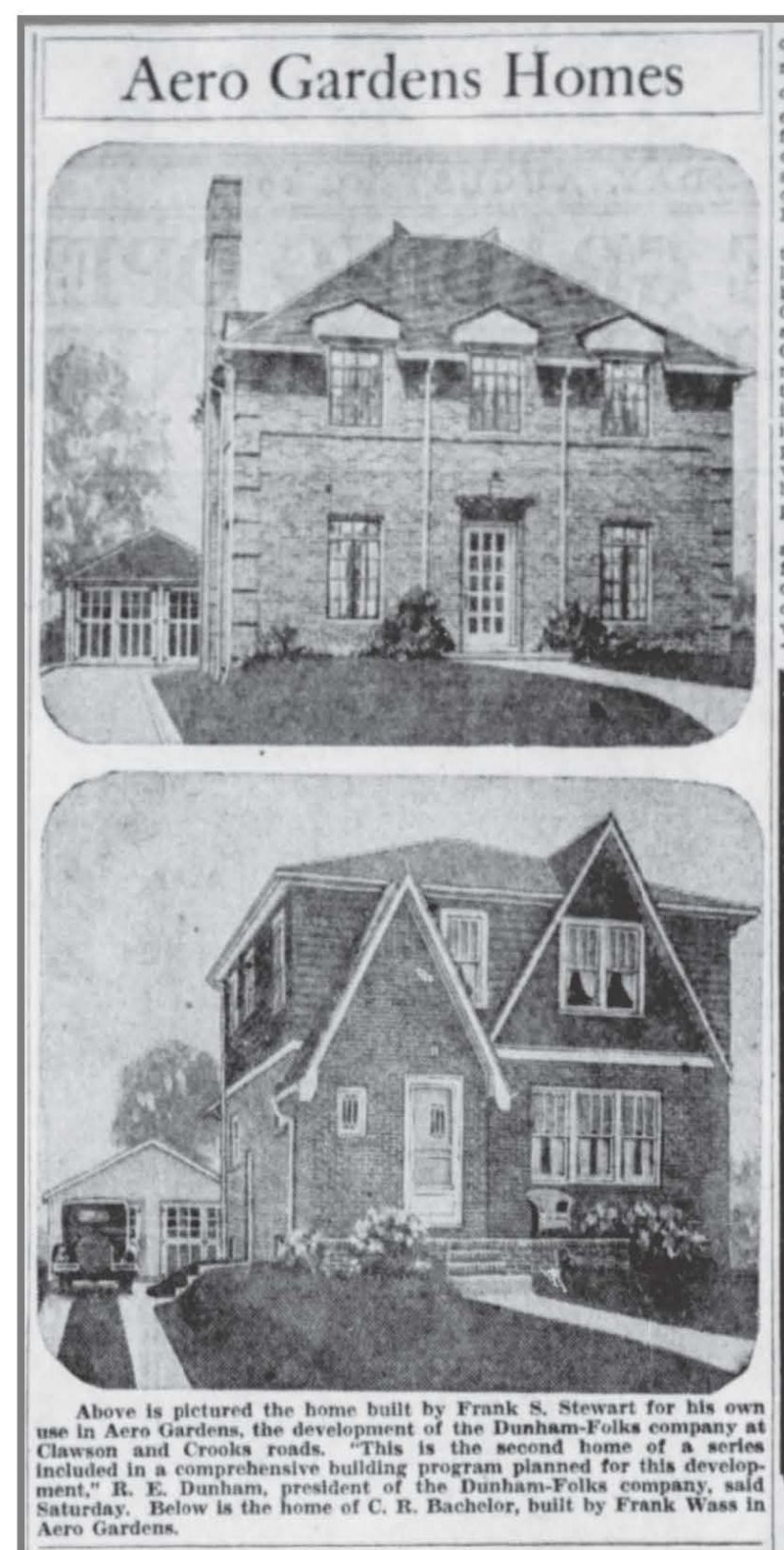


Above: This January 1930 Detroit Free Press advertisement shows several houses built in new subdivision that were to be served by a proposed elevated rapid-transit railway. Two of the houses in the ad are in Clawson.

At right, from August of 1929, two very distinctive homes that still stand on Selfridge in Clawson, built by Frank Stewart and Frank Wass respectively.

### *did you know...*

Aero Gardens subdivision got its name because pilots from Selfridge landed on the Davidson's farm during World War I.



# The Rapid Transit System that Was Never to Be...

In 1929 the Grand Trunk Western Railroad announced plans to construct a system of rapid transit between Detroit and Pontiac utilizing rail with overhead toll expressway. The plan called for 25 electrified commuter trains a day in each direction and an auto speedway over the rails to be supported by concrete columns. The stock market crash ended these plans.

-detroittransit.org

ANOTHER

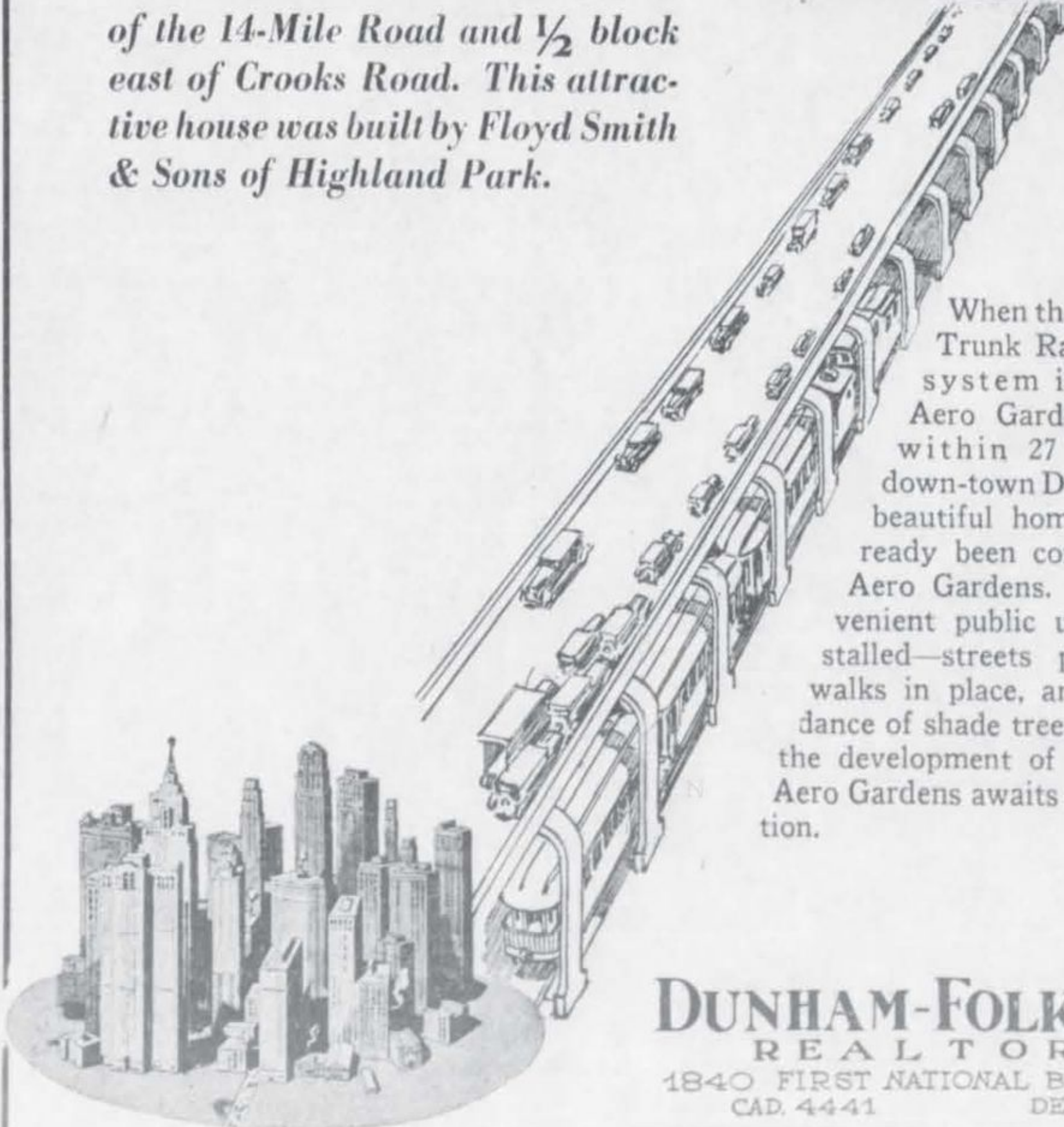
# AERO GARDENS

## Model Home

OPEN FOR INSPECTION

Located on Selfridge Blvd. in Aero Gardens. One block north of the 14-Mile Road and 1/2 block east of Crooks Road. This attractive house was built by Floyd Smith & Sons of Highland Park.





When the new Grand Trunk Rapid Transit system is completed Aero Gardens will be within 27 minutes of down-town Detroit. Many beautiful homes have already been constructed in Aero Gardens. Every convenient public utility is installed—streets paved, sidewalks in place, and an abundance of shade trees. Ideal for the development of family life, Aero Gardens awaits your inspection.

**DUNHAM-FOLKS CO.**  
REALTORS  
1840 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG  
CAD. 4441 DETROIT

Attractive modern brick homes continued to be built in the Aero Gardens subdivision throughout the 1920s. In addition to other restrictions, houses on Selfridge were required to be "modern, have a basement, and cost no less than \$3,500" (in1925.) The Depression halted most construction in the area, leaving streets and sidewalks through vacant fields in some areas until the 1950s.

# Many Fine Homes Under Construction

—in—

# Aero Gardens



AERO GARDENS is such a delightful home site—offering so many definite advantages that it is being sought out as a place in which to live. The proof is in the number of imposing homes now being erected on the property. These homes are evidence of action, of confidence, of belief in the desirability of Aero Gardens.

Aero Gardens is complete. There is nothing to anticipate. The streets are paved, sidewalks are laid, sewer and water mains installed, electricity and telephone available.

Remember too that Aero Gardens will be only a twenty-seven minute ride to downtown Detroit when the new Grand Trunk suburban service is started.

You are invited to see this property—to inspect the homes built and now building—to compare the values offered. Send in the coupon for the information you should have.



Artist's sketch of model home now being built in Aero Gardens by Floyd L. Smith, Builder, Murphy Bldg., Highland Park.

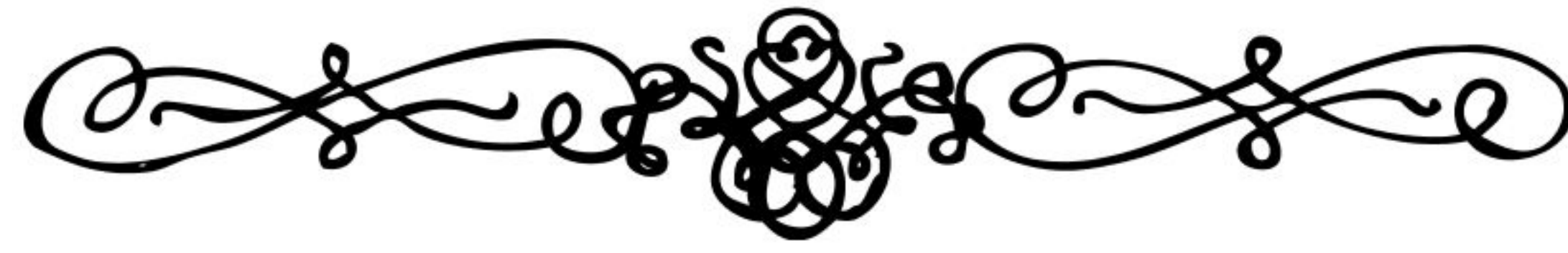
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Gentlemen—Without obligating me,  
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Aero Gardens.

Name.....  
Address.....  
City.....

# Clawson Clippings

## from the Clawson Tribune, 1924



**April 25** - The Lincoln Theater at Clawson will be opened Thursday, May 1, the attraction being Gloria Swanson in "The Humming Bird." The theater has been newly decorated, new machines added and under the new management should prove a popular amusement place. J. F. Brennan, who has had 16 years experience in the moving picture business, is the new proprietor.

**February 15** - A complaint that a one-lunged Ford, belonging to a resident living near a local church, disturbed services Sunday mornings, has been lodged with the commission. The police will see that the nuisance is abated.

### **April 25** - Clawson Girls to Have Ball Team

Good looks and bobbed hair are no the only attributes to Clawson girls. Listed among their accomplishments is the ability to play excellent base ball; and now they are going to organize a team. For this purpose a meeting will be held next Thursday night, May 1, at the home of Miss Edna Lowe, Clawson road east. All girls who can throw a wicked curve or wield a mean bat are requested to attend.

**April 11** - Howard A. Jackson, Main street, Clawson, is home again from Florida, with three straw hats and a coat of tan. That is not all he brought home either, for he landed home with 26 pounds of avoirdupois he didn't take away with him at christmas. He also brought home Mrs. Jackson who reports having enjoyed a wonderful holiday. Incidentally Mrs. Jackson is 20 pounds heavier than she was when she went away.

**April 4** - According to Village Clerk M. Spangler this year promised to establish a record in the number and value of buildings to be erected. Several subdivision owners are planning the erection of homes which will number several hundred.

**March 14** - A bridge on Broadacre street, across the Lawson drain will be built at once at a cost not to exceed \$100.

A petition from property owners on Elmwood avenue was presented to the commission asking that some holes on the street be filled up before the spring thaw renders traffic on the street impossible.

## Clawson Historical Commission

The five-member governing board of the Historical Museum meets 4 times annually. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the museum at 7 p.m. Scheduled meeting dates for 2016 are:

April 12th

July 12th

October 11th

## Visit the Museum - even when we're closed!

Don't forget, you can view our virtual exhibits on line any time by visiting the City of Clawson website, clicking on departments, choosing Historical Museum and then clicking Virtual Exhibits. There you will find 7 categories containing over 250 historic Clawson photographs and information. And keep checking, we plan to update the galleries soon!

**Sparkey says: History is cool,  
get some today!**



## Volunteers Needed

The museum is seeking volunteers interested in guiding museum visitors during open hours one Sunday a month. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact the museum to pick up your free docent's guide.

## Plan Your Group Visit NOW!

While the museum will be closed in January for cleaning, it is never too early to book your group tour. Group tours are offered free of charge to Clawson organizations.

Off-site visits, including multi-media presentations and “museum without walls” tours are also available. For more information about group tours, on or off-site history programs, or to plan your visit, call 248-588-9169.

For more information about current programs, visit the Clawson Historical Society website at [clawsonhistoricalsociety.org/programs.html](http://clawsonhistoricalsociety.org/programs.html) for a complete downloadable brochure. Additional programs can also be developed to meet your group's specific requests.