

Milford Moments in Time

By Joyce M. Clark

If you, family, or friends ever shopped for goldfish at a Kmart store back in the early 1970's, chances are that the goldfish were home-grown right here in Milford Michigan. And if you don't believe it, just ask Don Green, Milford Township Supervisor.

When Don moved to Milford back in 1980, he bought a lot near an agricultural breeding field for goldfish. In 1975, the ponds surrounding the property provided Kmart with over 13,000,000 goldfish. That's right, 13 million!

Ponds located across approximately 50 acres provided the abundant goldfish. The Huron River fed into the ponds with assistance from a pump house. The area no longer supplies goldfish to Kmart, but if the Blue Heron that now populate the area are lucky, they just might come across one or two goldfish this summer.

But goldfish and Blue Heron are not the only inhabitants that have enjoyed living in Milford. Several years back, numerous Native American arrowheads were found within the agricultural breeding area.

Native American tribes used the Huron River that flows through Milford as a major canoe route. Native Americans called the river "cos-scut-e-nong-sebee", meaning "burnt district river", due to the periodic openings or clearings in the dry oak on the highlands above the river.

Canoeing and boy scouts initially introduced Don to the Milford area when he was just a young boy. Back then he enjoyed camping with his troop at the Arrowhead and Orchard lodges in Kensington Metro Park. The lodges were old and rustic, and employed gas lamps for lighting.

As time marched on, Don became a cub-scout and boy-scout leader for Troop 33. It then became Don's responsibility to coordinate and plan activities for his scouts. At that point, trips to Kensington Metro Park's Nature Center and Farm Learning Center became part of the agenda so future generations would learn to appreciate the area as well.

2007 is the 175th Anniversary of Milford and in celebration of this major milestone, we are asking you to share some of your stories with the rest of the community. If you have a little Milford history to pass along, please contact Sue Bullard, Milford Historical Society President, 248.685.7308 or milfordhistory@yahoo.com. The Milford Historical Society is happy to document your story and share it with others.