

History of the Ludington , Mi. Branch

1974 to 2014

A brief history of Ludington and Manistee members before being established as the Manistee-Ludington Branch in 1974: In 1969, the Overholt's of Dorothy, Robert, Leigh and Brad joined the church and went to Muskegon to attend church. Muskegon at that time was part of the Lansing, Michigan Stake. In about 1972 a church was established in Manistee, with Jack Davis, as president. He had been the former president of the Traverse City district. We were part of the Midland, MI Stake. About that time, the Newman's of Bob, Mary Lou, Carol and Diana had moved to Ludington, where Bro. Newman, had taken a job with the Jackson-Jordan Corp., as its purchasing director. They had moved from West Allis, WI where Bob had been a bishop. We spent about two years in Manistee, and used the Jefferson Elementary School for our meetings. Our membership was about 30 people in Manistee, and that took in members from Bear Lake, Manistee, Portage Lake, Kaleva and Ludington. We had all three meetings back to back and that was before other units of the church were doing it. (The combined meetings occurred when gasoline prices became so high).

The move to Ludington to form the Ludington Branch took place in about 1979. At that time we met in the Franklin Elementary School. It was a very cold winter that year and the gym, where we met, was very cold. The gym temperature was set at 50°, so we all had to have our coats on for the meetings. After Christmas that year they let us use the school library, which was much warmer. Bro. Charles Stoddard was our first High Councilor during that time. We had been joined with the newly formed Grand Rapids Stake, under the direction of Pres. Glenn L. Goodwin, who was the first Stake President. That was in early 1979. We continued to meet in the school until Bro. Stafford (Bud) Stoddard came to Ludington and purchased the building on Melendy St. That was about 1980 and he left us with an extra \$5000.00 for repairs on the building. The Stoddard family, with the father Howard Stoddard, had purchased other units for members to meet in, in northern Michigan. He felt that congregations of people had to have an identity of their own if they were to grow. The Stoddard family owned the Michigan National Banks that were

headquartered in Detroit, MI. The Stoddard's also sent various things to help our branch function well, such as a Lowery Organ, carpeting and pews for the choir loft. Other things came later.

Leigh and Dolores Rasmussen joined the church early on because their son, Michael, who had moved to California and had joined the church, wanted them to investigate. They did that and soon became members of our small branch. Leigh brought with him some very important talent, which was that he was a state licensed building contractor. There are now four generations of Rasmussen's in the church, the parents, the son, a granddaughter and now as of July 2013, a great granddaughter, Raylee, Hayes, who was baptized in the small lake next to the family farm in Ludington.

Very soon after the Rasmussen's joined the church, work began on upgrading the building. One of the first things that needed doing was to insulate the building. We had a work bee and rented an insulation blower. Bro. Rasmussen made all the exterior holes in the walls and the work progressed. There is a little story about Pres. Newman. He was helping put the bags of insulation into the hopper, and in the process got a lot of insulation on himself. He had to go, after the work, and marry a young lady who was a member, and when he put his suit on and got in the car to go he didn't realize that his car seats had insulation on them. At the wedding he had insulation on the back of the suit, and didn't realize it until he got home. Fortunately, the wedding was at the home of the people and not in a church setting. Ray Tracy, a doctor from Hart who was LDS, and Butch Kurzer, who had recently joined the church, were also there helping. Soon after that the two of them started the Hart Branch.

Work continued to progress on the building. After the insulation was done, vinyl siding was applied to the exterior by Bro. Rasmussen and his son Michael. There was a large tree removed from the back of the building that was overhanging the roof shingles. Bro. Wally Kuras and Bro. Rasmussen did most of the work to remove the tree. They climbed the tree and roped and dropped the branches individually.

Wally Kuras was proselytized into the church and had a very interesting visitation from the spirit while out in the woods one day. Since he had read the Book of Enos, in the Book of Mormon, and sought the truth about it, he received an answer to his humble prayer confirming the truth about it. Shortly thereafter he joined the church. He was the only one in his family that joined at that time. Shortly afterwards his daughter, Diana joined the church. It caused a schism in his family for some time afterwards. However, now his wife is an active member of the church, and Bro. Kuras has since passed away. Wally told about the voice he heard in the woods and never lost his testimony.

There were various things we did to help raise money for projects around the church. A local doctor, Gerry Mayer M.D., paid us \$2000.00 to plant a 40 acre plot of ground with pine trees. We called the project, "Johnny Pinecone". Many of us worked hard to plant the 10,000 pine trees. It brought our small branch closer together as we worked back to back. Bro. Rasmussen knew a lot about planting the trees and demonstrated the way to do it. The Newman's, the Overholt's, the Linville's, the Kuras', Sis. Beattie, Sue Guest and others worked to complete the project.

Another important person to come into the church was Sis. Rosemary Beattie. She was taught by Elder Pugmire and his companion. Elder Pugmire, is now a medical doctor and practicing in the Lansing, MI area. Sis. Beattie had a keen interest in the Genealogical Program of the church and was the first director of our Family History Center. Brother Rasmussen made a very special mobile file cabinet for the microfiche to be stored in for patrons to use. We were also given several microfilm readers to be used in the library, by the church. Over the years many books on genealogy were given to the library, as well as access to hundreds of films from Salt Lake City upon request. Bro. Rasmussen and Bro. Overholt worked countless hours to make the history center what it needed to be to work well. The outside walls were insulated with Styrofoam and a special small wall furnace was installed so it would be warm in the winter to work down there. Sis. Beattie was also the first person to publish our weekly church programs. At that time we only had a spirit fluid mimeograph machine to print multiples copies for our members.

Work continued on the building. We had a new front door installed with better locking ability. Also Bro. Lincoln Engwall painted the sign to put in the front of the church. It served us well until the church came and placed a nice new metal lettered sign for us. Sis. Mary Taibl joined the church early on and was a very intelligent person who did the programs after Sis. Beattie. She also taught the adult Sunday School Class for many years. Her husband Bill did not join the church at that time, but he finally did on the testimony of his wife. Bill had a booming voice and gave very special prayers that many of us appreciated. He was a great outdoorsman and after we installed a freezer in the garage, Bill filled it with fish (mostly salmon) and eventually had a branch fish fry. Bill was also a very hard worker. He and Bro. Rasmussen replaced much of the broken sidewalk in the front of the church. Bro. Rasmussen built a canopy over the back door of the church for protection from the weather as it was used by most of the members to gain access to the building. Later Bro. Rasmussen and Bro. Overholt installed a motion detector security light that would come on when it was dark outside as someone approached the door.

Work also continued working in the chapel of the church. All of the major windows in the chapel needed to be replaced. The previous church wanted the original stained glass windows, so Bro. Rasmussen made special frames to house new frosted glass ones. There were three on each exposed side of the church. The oak flooring in the chapel also needed to be restored, so it was sanded and stained with a Danish wood stain. Upon leaving the chapel the night the staining was done, a pile of rags used to apply the stain, were left on the stage area where there was old short pile carpeting. During the night there was a spontaneous combustion fire where the rags were. The carpet was burned around the area, but it did not ignite the whole building, which was a 100 year old wooden building. We all knew that we had experienced a miracle. The Lord had intervened and protected the building.

We met in the basement when the chapel was being worked on, and it provided a decent place for our services. Pres. Goodwin came and spoke in sacrament meeting while we met in the basement. What a kind, gentle, capable human being he was. We all loved him.

Since our chapel was large, we purchased a new Radio Shack P.A. system for it with speakers and an amplifier. It served us well until the church came in after several years, and replaced it with speakers in the ceiling and a new amplifier system. It was also equipped with a sound system that could be used when we were watching General Conference in the chapel. We had theater type chairs instead of pews in the chapel. The physical facilities people located and replaced the chairs with pews, as well as putting cushions on the pews. We had now, almost completely refurbished the chapel, and it worked very well.

Other work progressed on the building. Bro. Rasmussen and Bro. Overholt completely restored the basement for the Primary people. We dropped the ceiling, put new paneling on the walls and all new electrical outlets down there. The ceiling was installed with all new florescent lighting. Many hours were spent doing that work. The next major project was the kitchen. We completely tore all the walls apart as well as the ceiling. It took most of the winter, with both Bro. Rasmussen and Bro. Overholt working at night, after their day jobs, to complete the kitchen. We put floor heaters in the room to be used when the winter weather was extremely cold. That was used to prevent the water pipes from freezing since many of the lines were up against outside walls.

Another major project was the completion of the Family History Center. It too had been completely restored as was mentioned earlier. Later the center was equipped with new computers so genealogy work could progress faster. Bro. Tim McKay was the person to set up the computers for the use of patrons. He also became the FHC director. The center got much use when it became computerized. This was a big loss to the community when our building was closed.

Our library, on the main floor, was refurbished by Bro. Rasmussen. He refinished the oak floors, and placed new wall hung cupboards in the room. At about this time he replaced many of the windows in the building so they could be opened for air and easier cleaning, which was before we had air-conditioning in the building. Bro. Rasmussen and

Bro. Overholt installed large blackboards in all the classrooms and the Branch President's office. At about the same time, the garage had a new electrical system updated with new lights and a new outside farm type light placed for security reasons at night.

Another major improvement was made when we installed a satellite system to be able to get conference programs from SLC. Bro. Wally Kuras was able to purchase a used dish from the cable company, whom he worked for at the time. We raised the money to purchase it by doing some remodeling work for Bro. Robert Metcalf, who was a stockbroker in Manistee. He paid us \$1000 for the work and that was about what it took to buy the satellite system. We all appreciated and enjoyed watching the conferences from the church, and especially being able to get the Priesthood sessions on Saturday night. We always had a good attendance with brothers from Hart, Manistee and Ludington. Pizza, drinks, and sometimes ice cream were provided for everyone before the broadcast. The camaraderie was very good. Continuing with another project, Bro. Rasmussen completed the restoration of the women's bathroom on the lower level. It needed everything; a new ceiling, paneling, sink, fan, cabinet and a heater for use in the winter.

More and more changes took place over the years. The Mautz Family of Carl and his sister Kris donated a major improvement in our music with an excellent organ that had foot pedals that Sis. Dorothy Overholt was able to play with her music background in piano and organ. Sis. Overholt also taught Home Study Seminary for 18 years, and several of the youth went on missions. Carl Mautz's parents kindly blessed us with a beautiful picture of the Lion and the Lamb lying down together, which was in the Primary area. Bro. Robert Mautz was a former professor at the University of Illinois and University of Michigan business schools. He also served in SLC for the Church Audit committee. Their extended family now is probably over 40 or more who are truly converted to the gospel, and they are frequent visitors in the summer.

The church in order to comply with the ADA (The American Disabilities Act) standards after placing a lift chair in the foyer, also build a handicap bathroom on the chapel floor level in the foyer.

People through the years came and left as they do in many branches and wards. The Overholt's were one of the first members of the church. Because the church was new in Ludington, several non-member friends of ours would call our branch, "The Overholt Bunch". That was a badge of honor. The Newman's were the second most important family to move into the branch. His previous experience, as a bishop, was most helpful to us. He was here with his wife, Mary Lou and their two daughters. Bob Newman was our branch president for about 10 years. He was followed by Michael Ziegenfelder, who worked for the Shell Oil Company in their field office north of Manistee, MI. They had 5 children and were a big addition to our branch. Kathy Ziegenfelder became our next Primary president. Mike was the Branch President for about 6 years. Following Mike, Bob Overholt became the next president. Bro. Leigh Rasmussen was the only councilor for many years. After six years Bro and Sis. Rick May moved into our branch and served as Branch President for several years.. He was the marketing manager for the Dow Chemical Cal-Mag Division. He traveled frequently for the company. His wife JoDean and their five children were very active. They later moved to Arizona. Following Pres. May, Bruce Walborn became our president and he had the position for about 5 years. He also had been a bishop in the Ohio area. After Pres. Walborn, John Andrew McCabe (Andy), was called as the president. He and his family were also very active. They had five children who were involved in all of the church programs. This past summer of 2014, their identical twin daughters, who were excellent students, were off to the United States West Point Academy for Ashleigh and to BYU for Savanna. Following Pres. McCabe, Bro. Mark Olmstead moved here with his wife Heidi, and their four children, from the Traverse City area. Mark had previously been a high councilman in the Traverse City District. Mark served as the Branch President for a period of time until we merged our branch with the Hart branch. We were then made "The Hart Ward" and Mark was called to be the first Bishop of the ward. Mark is a busy man with a large family and he is a principal in the Scottville School system.

Over the years, the Ludington Branch, has sent several young people out to be missionaries. Cliff Airhart was the first to go. He went to a California mission, where he met a special young lady, and went back after his mission and married that girl. Cliff and Gina now live near Los Angeles, CA and they have two boys and Cliff is an IT technician for

the Boeing Corporation. David Linville also served a mission for the Church. Following the death of his father, Bob, his mother, Joyce, also served a senior mission for the church. Joyce now lives in the Grand Rapids area. Laura Pomeroy served a mission in the Spanish speaking mission of Arcadia, CA. She is now living and working in the Hart-Shelby area with her new husband, Alton Overweg.

We have had a number of senior missionaries serve in our area. The first couples were the Parker's, Don and Violet, from the state of Washington. They were hard working and special people. Violet and Don went back to Washington and soon after going home, Sis. Parker developed cancer and soon passed away. Larry and Fern Wakefield were the next set of senior missionaries to serve in our area. They had come to Ludington from the Philippine Islands, where Sis. Wakefield became sick and had to return to the states. They finished their mission here. Sis. Wakefield was a close personal friend of Sis. Hunter, Pres. Howard Hunter's wife. We received special prayers upon our branch from Pres. Hunter because of that relationship. Following the Wakefield's, Bro and Sis. Jensen served here. He was a mint farmer from Eastern Oregon. Another fine couple to serve here were Pat and Rowena Neeley from Orem, UT. They had served in the Church Office in Lansing for much of their mission and came here to finish their time. Outstanding people as were the others also. Our final two sets of senior missionaries were Earl and Marion Davis, from Provo, UT, and who were most active in working closely with the proselytizing missionaries as well as the branch members. They were very outgoing people and all of us received many loaves of bread from Sis. Davis, and we loved them and the bread very much. The final set of senior missionaries were the Harris's, Bennie and Risé. They were very active and good people from North Carolina. They helped the junior missionaries a lot and they did much to visit and encourage many inactives to return to church. They were instrumental in the baptisms of the McCune's, which took place on a beautiful August day in Lake Michigan. The Harris' were very loved also, and shortly after their stay in Ludington they were transferred to the Spring Lake Ward, where they finished their mission. God has truly blessed us because the very spiritual seniors missionaries he has sent to help us. We've had a good many people come and go in our branch- too many to name here.

A few other significant events that occurred in our Branch: Richard Headlee, who had run for governor came to Ludington to host a community wide plan to proselytize the whole area. It was not the most successful, but it was a major event that was covered by our local media. After lunch was served there were about 20 extra missionaries here to help the priesthood in the branch knock on doors in town and invite them to come and hear Bro. Headlee speak the next day. Many people in the area realized that there was an LDS Church in our town after that. Another significant person to move in to our Branch was Richard Hayes. He moved back to his hometown after living in the South Carolina area for many years. His daughter Julie came here to go to West Shore Community College, and being here, led her to know Chance Ellis. She was determined to be married in the temple and Chance wanted to marry her, so he investigated the church with many lessons in the home of the Overholt's. He did join and after being in the church for a year went to the Chicago Temple with Julie and the Overholt's to receive his Endowment. They were then married in Washington DC Temple. The couple now have six children and are living in the Fredericksburg, VA area.

We had many special social events in our branch; honoring missionaries who were leaving to go home from Ludington, Christmas parties, branch conference meals, and many other various occasions. The members shopped at the new Eberhard's store for rewards of dishes and silverware for the branch kitchen. We obtained a large amount of dishes and silverware with the rewards saved. We made good use of the dishes and enjoyed our remodeled kitchen through those years.

A few miscellaneous things that took place in the branch: Bro. Lincoln Engwall, who was our clerk for many years, purchased and provided a nice large American flag for the branch. It was displayed in the chapel and provided a touch of patriotism.. Many church books were donated to the library over the years, so people could check them out for their own enjoyment. Before we had electronic access to conference issues of the Ensign, we saved the church Ensigns and filed them for the members use.

I would like to mention the service that a few other people have made to our branch. Bro. David Woodruff had been our branch clerk for nearly 20 years, while we were in Ludington. Sis. Tonya Woodruff also contributed much to the branch as a former R.S. president and was currently the Primary president for several years. Bro. Richard Hayes, who moved back to Ludington from South Carolina, became our Mission Leader and Seminary teacher for many years. Sis. Kay Foster, who was baptized a few years ago, has also made a big contribution to our branch, with her piano playing, singing and teaching skills. Sis. Heather Broughton has also been very active in our branch. She had been our activities chairman for many years and contributed very much. The McKay's, Tim and Debbie have also made a big contribution to our branch with Tim's computer skills and Debbie's teaching and organizing ability.

Lastly, I would like to comment on the past and present patriarchs who have served the Stake, Wards and Branches. The first patriarch that the Overholt's received their blessings from was Bro. Kenneth Simons, a very special spiritual giant in the church. I believe that he was the patriarch for the Lansing Stake at the time. Bro. George Morris was called to be a patriarch, but was only in the position for a short time. He had joined the church at a much later age. Following Bro. Morris, Bro. Richard Blackmer was called to be a patriarch. He served many years and was dearly loved by all who had a blessing from him. He and wife Rachael, who both suffered from medical maladies, were undaunted in their service to the Lord. Bro. Blackmer died prematurely and I'm sure he is now serving in the Lord's kingdom in a very important calling. God rest his soul. We now have Bro. David Wadsworth as our Stake Patriarch, who has long served in many important callings in the church. He is also a wonderful person and very spiritual. Those who receive blessings from him will be greatly enriched by his service to them and will have a lasting legacy to rely on when it is needed in their lives.

I would like to give a special thanks to Sis. Dolores Rasmussen and Sis. Dorothy Overholt for their helping me to compile this history of the Ludington Branch. Sis. Rasmussen kept a significant amount of information and pictures over the years with dates

and names of people. Sis. Overholt helped to edit it. It is our prayer that the LDS unit of the church may again be restored to function in the Ludington area.

Addendum to the History of the Ludington, MI Branch

{ The following paragraphs were requested that they be put into the history by a dear friend of many years, Bro Carl Mautz. Carl and his family were meeting with us back when we first started; following his mission to France. }

The first missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elder Sanford and his companion, arrived in Ludington, Michigan in April, 1969. They had been sent to open up the area from Fort Wayne, Indiana where the mission headquarters was located. As they traveled up by bus they came up with the plan of baptizing the mayor and the chief of police of the town. Then maybe the whole town would be converted. (!) Among the first doors where they knocked after arriving was that of Bob and Dorothy Overholt. Bob was practicing dentistry at that time, and was at work when they came. Dorothy agreed to have them return later when he would be home.

The missionaries did not know that Bob was the mayor of Ludington at that time, or that Dorothy had been praying to find a way of serving the Lord more than just attending her church and playing the organ as a substitute. Bob was not aware of her desires.

Lessons were started shortly thereafter, using the then popular flannel board with pictures and word strips. The first discussion was about prayer and how it should be done. Dorothy had often prayed as far back as she could remember, but it was a new thing to Bob. She was asked to give the closing prayer at the end of the discussion, which she did. During the second discussion, the missionaries asked Bob if he would be prepared to pray at the following discussion. He agreed to do it, but was filled with fear, as he had never prayed privately, let alone publicly, before. He worried about it during the ensuing week. When the time came at the next discussion, he was asked to pray and that he should be on

his knees when saying it. Upon accomplishing it, he had a wonderful feeling that he had “never felt before in his life. He had felt the spirit of the Holy Ghost.

After the fourth discussion the Ludington area was closed to missionaries. Two missionaries from Muskegon, Elder Elton and Elder MacFarland, traveled to Ludington over the next weeks and continued the lessons. During this time Dorothy read several of the church books including Book of Mormon, Jesus the Christ, the Articles of Faith, and A Marvelous Work and A Wonder. Through study, prayer, and instruction, they received a testimony that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was the true church, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet and had restored the gospel to the earth.

In June, 1969 , Bob and Dorothy and their two children, Leigh Anne and Brad, were baptized . Since Bob was mayor and chief political officer over the chief of police, the original plan of the first two elders was actually fulfilled in that way, but unfortunately no one else in the city was interested at that time. The closest LDS church was in Muskegon and the Overholt family attended there for several years. A small independent branch was opened up later in Manistee, and met in an elementary school there. Eventually, in 1979 a school in Ludington was made available for Sunday meetings for the Ludington Branch, and after a few months an old church building was purchased by Stafford (Bud) Stoddard, of Detroit for our unit to fix up and use. It was very exciting to finally have our own building.

When asked about the changes that happened in their lives when they joined the Mormon Church, some of the things mentioned were attending many church meetings and church activities, obeying the Word of Wisdom, being more Christ centered, and attending a church temple. Observing the Sabbath had a more sacred focus than just attending a one hour service in their previous church.

They have been active ever since and served in many callings and ways. Once, when questioned by a seasoned member of the church, how they have managed to remain faithful in such a small area of the church, the answer given was ,”It’s true, isn’t it?” And that’s the only reason really necessary.

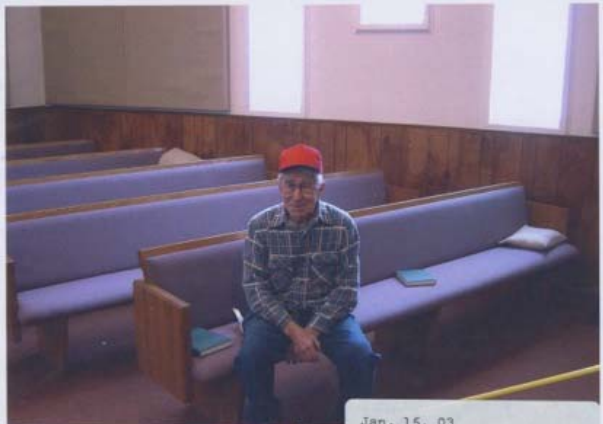
Bro. and Sis. Robert Overholt September 2014



26 April 1983 started work on the kitchen. Baptismal Font removed.



finished kitchen in Aug. of 1983.



Jan. 15, 03 Leigh & Bob changing the light bulbs in the Chapel



4th of July, 2002



Bro. Rasmussen



REMEMBER OUR HEROES THROUGH FAMILY HISTORY



Free. Hestman & Mike Rasmussen



Family History Center helps area people find their roots

By MARION BIEDL
Daily News Staff Writer

Since The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened one of its Family History Centers in Ludington in February 1987, the center's resources have grown with each succeeding year - the number of research indexes, as well as the size of each index.

Volunteer director of the center at 416 E. Melendy St. since its opening is Mrs. Rose Mary Beattie. Two other active volunteers are Lincoln Engwall and Roy Halladay.

Mrs. Beattie explains that the local center was started because of the distance between Ludington and Grand Rapids where a center serves the state (west Michigan region). "They felt it was a great distance for anyone to drive and decided to open the center here in Ludington. Now there are also centers in Muskegon and Hastings."

The center was opened because of the local interest in genealogy. A number of the Genealogical Society members had used the Grand Rapids center for their research. Members of the local church branch felt it was

advantageous to have a center nearby, Mrs. Beattie states.

The center offers access to a wealth of records used in tracing one's roots. Records available include various genealogical indexes, registers, catalogs and reference collections.

The current (1988) edition of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) lists over 147 million names of deceased people from the world over. This index gives names, birth, christening, marriage dates and localities along with names of parents or spouse. It also includes Latter-day Saints Temple ordinance dates. The index format and filing system make it very easy to use, says Mrs. Beattie.

The IGI plus the Family Registry (an index for sharing and receiving information with and from others who are working on the same names (x) you are and the surname portion of our Family History Library Catalog which contains names and generalities of given families combine to make up Previous Research - research that has been done by others which can benefit you in your quest, Mrs. Beattie adds.

(See FAMILY, page 2.)



Family history files

RoseMary Beattie, director of the Ludington Michigan Family History Center, poses with some of the files at the center in the basement of the

Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints, 416 East Melendy St. "It's surprising how many people don't know we're here," she said. "It's too bad."

6 Ludington Daily News, Thursday, January 11, 1979

Organize Ludington Small Branch Of Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) has announced the organization of the Ludington Small Branch effective Jan. 1.

Robert C. Newman of 903 N. Elder Lane, director of purchases at Jackson Vibrators, was sustained as Branch President. Newman reported that Dr. Robert E. Overholt, Ludington dentist, will serve as First Counselor and Lincoln Engwall of Manistee will serve as Branch Clerk.

The new branch was formed as a result of a division of the Manistee Branch into two small branches, one in Cadillac and the other in Ludington.

The Mormon Church has no paid clergy, but is served by the worthy men of the church, all of whom are ordained to the Priesthood. Young men are ordained to the Lesser Priesthood at the age of 12 and serve until ordained as Elders at 18 or 19, when they also receive a calling as missionaries.

These young missionaries devote two years to this work, at their own expense, in various parts of the world. In Ludington, Elder Hathcock and Elder Hawk serve in this capacity.

The new Ludington Small Branch will meet each Sunday at the Franklin School. Priesthood meeting and Relief Society is at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. and Sacrament Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Ludington Branch
The Church of Jesus Christ - LDS
416 E. Melendy
Ludington, MI 49431

September 3, 1994

Dear _____,

The Ludington Branch of the Church is going to have its Dedication Service Sunday the 11th of September at 9:00 AM. We would like to invite you to come and participate in the dedication by hearing the Stake President, Kent Price, perform this sacred and special dedicatory prayer. We have been several years in preparing our building for the event. We have remodeled many areas of the church through the efforts of Bro. Leigh Rasmussen and others who have worked with him. For those of you who have not seen the building we have remodeled the kitchen, the sanctuary, the clerks office, the Family History Center, the Primary room, the women's bathroom, the foyer, the front and back entrances as well as many other improvements. The building has also had carpeting laid in most of the classrooms and surrounding areas. New pews in the chapel have also been installed.

It is with much joy and happiness that we make the announcement of the dedication and it is our hope and prayer that you will come and join us in making this a sacred and memorable event for all of us in the church.

We wish God's blessings upon you.

Very sincerely yours,


Robert E. Overholt
Branch President


Leigh R. Rasmussen
Counselor



Bob & Ruth Mautz
Summer visitors for many years

Theater chairs in
chapel when we first
moved into building



Stake and Priesthood
leaders at 1994
dedication