

DEDICATION

— OF THE —

Ely Park
Memorial Fountain

HARTFORD, MICHIGAN

Thursday, August 28, 1930

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. HORACE M. OLNEY
DONORS OF ELY PARK

Program

DONALD F. COCHRANE, CHAIRMAN

Concert (7:00 P. M.)-----Lawrence-Hartford Band
F. J. Perrin, Lawrence, Director

Selections-----House of David Trio, and Male Quartet
Benton Harbor, Michigan

Community Singing (8:00 P. M.)-----"America"
Miss Mammie Howes, Leader

Invocation-----Rev. John W. Broxholm
Pastor First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hartford

Opening Address-----Donald F. Cochrane
Editor, The Hartford Day Spring

Selection-----House of David Trio

Presentation of the Fountain-----Dr. Fred A. Van Riper
Chairman of Fountain Committee

Key Bearers: Miss Margaret Martin, representing the Village
of Hartford, and Miss Marian Reissig, representing
the Surrounding Country

Illumination of the Fountain

----- by -----
Edward Finley, Sr.

Former Business Associate and Friend of Horace M. Olney

Acceptance of the Fountain In Behalf of Hartford-----Robert F. Brown
President of the Village of Hartford

Symbolism of Memorial Fountains-----Capt. John K. Shawvan, Chicago
Designer of the Ely Park Fountain

Selection-----Male Quartet

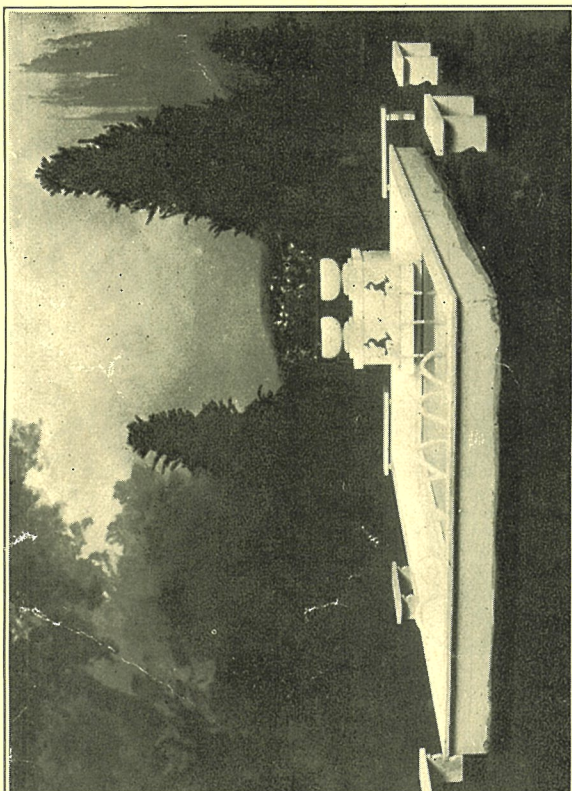
Three-Minute Talks-----By Homecomers
Former Residents of Hartford

Community Achievements-----Rev. Father T. F. Murphy, Watervliet
Pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Watervliet, and Immaculate
Conception Catholic Church, Hartford

Dedication Address-----Hon. David Anderson
Attorney at Paw Paw, Michigan, and Former Judge
of Probate of Van Buren County

Selections-----House of David Trio, and Male Quartet

Concluding Concert-----Lawrence-Hartford Band



Signature Model prepared by the Muldoon Monument Company, of Chicago, Illinois. Builders of the Ely Park Memorial Fountain.

Captain John K. Shawvan, Designer

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

The Hartford Commercial-Farmer Club
Anthony Miller, President; E. A. Kirby, Secretary

FOUNTAIN COMMITTEE

Dr. Fred A. Van Riper, Edward Finley, Sr., R. D. McLean

COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM AND SEATS

Robert F. Brown, F. J. Rauth, Wm. Muelleder, E. R. Smith, A. M. Manning,
Moses Cullom, Paul F. Richter, Kern Diggins

DIRECTOR OF LIGHTING

Marion J. Anderson

COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS

Mrs. J. H. Heuser, Mrs. George T. Chamberlin, Mrs. V. W. Olds,
Mrs. Frank L. Eagan

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

and Mrs. R. F. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Van Riper, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Calvin, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Olds, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Ingalls, Rev. and Mrs. John W. Broxholm, Mrs. Emma C. Ocobock, Mrs. Esther Landon, Miss Mary Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. W. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Grahl, all of Hartford; Mr. and Mrs. Millard J. Olds, of Cheboygan, Michigan

ELY PARK

AND ITS

MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

It was in 1896 that the late Horace M. Olney purchased what is now the west half of Ely Park, removed the buildings thereon and presented the land to the Village of Hartford.

The grant stipulated that the plat should be forever maintained as a public park to be known as Ely Park, in memory of his mother whose maiden name was Elvira Ely. There were few restrictions in the deed, other than that the Village should set trees and expend not less than one hundred dollars per year in improving the site and maintaining it as a park.

In 1908 Mr. Olney purchased the east half of the park, removed a lumber yard that had occupied the site for years, together with three pioneer frame store buildings on Main street, just west of Maple street, and presented the land to the Village as an addition to Ely Park.

Other Hartford citizens have evidenced fine civic pride in developing the park. After the gift of the land by Mr. Olney in 1893, the citizens of that period set the trees which today spread their branches over Ely Park. A number of Hartford business men and citizens of the community voluntarily went to the woodlands, selected the trees and transplanted them in the park. For two years these citizens carried water from a pump at the lumber yard and watered and cared for the trees they transplanted until they were firmly rooted. The original intent was to place in Ely Park a specimen of each tree native to the local forests. They were set too thickly, however, and since that time many of them have been cut down to give others an opportunity to develop.

Mr. Olney was a lifelong resident of Hartford, having been born on the old Olney homestead south of the village. He was active in business, served as president of the village and in other positions of trust, and was the founder of the Olney National Bank. He died at his home on Shepard street in this village on January 10, 1924. At his death he left a trust fund of \$10,000, the income from which is to be used for the perpetual care of Ely Park.

From year to year the park was improved until it became a beauty spot. In the spring of 1929 the installation of a suitable memorial fountain was proposed, and Anthony Miller, president of the Hartford Commercial-Farmer club, appointed a committee to investigate the proposal. The fountain project was formally launched at a festival, sponsored by the club, at the park on August 1, 1929. The nucleus of a fountain fund was raised, and it has since grown by voluntary subscriptions until the fountain, dedicated August 28, 1930, has been financed by present and former residents of Hartford and their friends. The fountain has been erected at a cost of \$3,050. There are approximately 400 individual contributions to the fund, ranging from \$1.00 to \$500.00 each—an impressive testimonial of the appreciation of the contributors of the gift of Ely Park to Hartford. Acknowledgment is also made of the contributions of less than one dollar, which have gone to make up the collections made by organizations and others for the fountain fund, as well as of the volunteer labor and truck work so generously extended in erecting and equipping the fountain and grading the site.

The fountain bears a bronze plate stating that it has been erected "In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Horace M. Olney, donors of Ely Park, named in memory of his mother, whose maiden name was Elvira Ely." Mrs. Olney was Miss Chloe A. Landon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Landon, pioneers of Hartford.

A permanent receptacle is to be formed at the base of the fountain in which will be placed a list of the contributors, the history of Ely Park and the memorial fountain project, together with a record of these dedication ceremonies, for the information of a future generation of Hartford people, should they replace the fountain and open the receptacle.

The committee, appointed by the Commercial-Farmer club, which has supervised the raising of the fund and the erection of the fountain is composed by Dr. Fred A. Van Riper, chairman, Edward Finley, Sr., and R. D. McLean.