

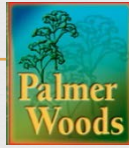
Palmer Woods Detroit, Michigan



Est. 1915

Pictures Courtesy of
Barbara Barefield and Terrance Keith

Palmer Woods: 1915 - 2015



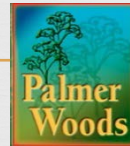
❧ Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty

❧ Architects & Architecture

❧ People of Palmer Woods

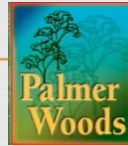
❧ 1630 Wellesley

Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty



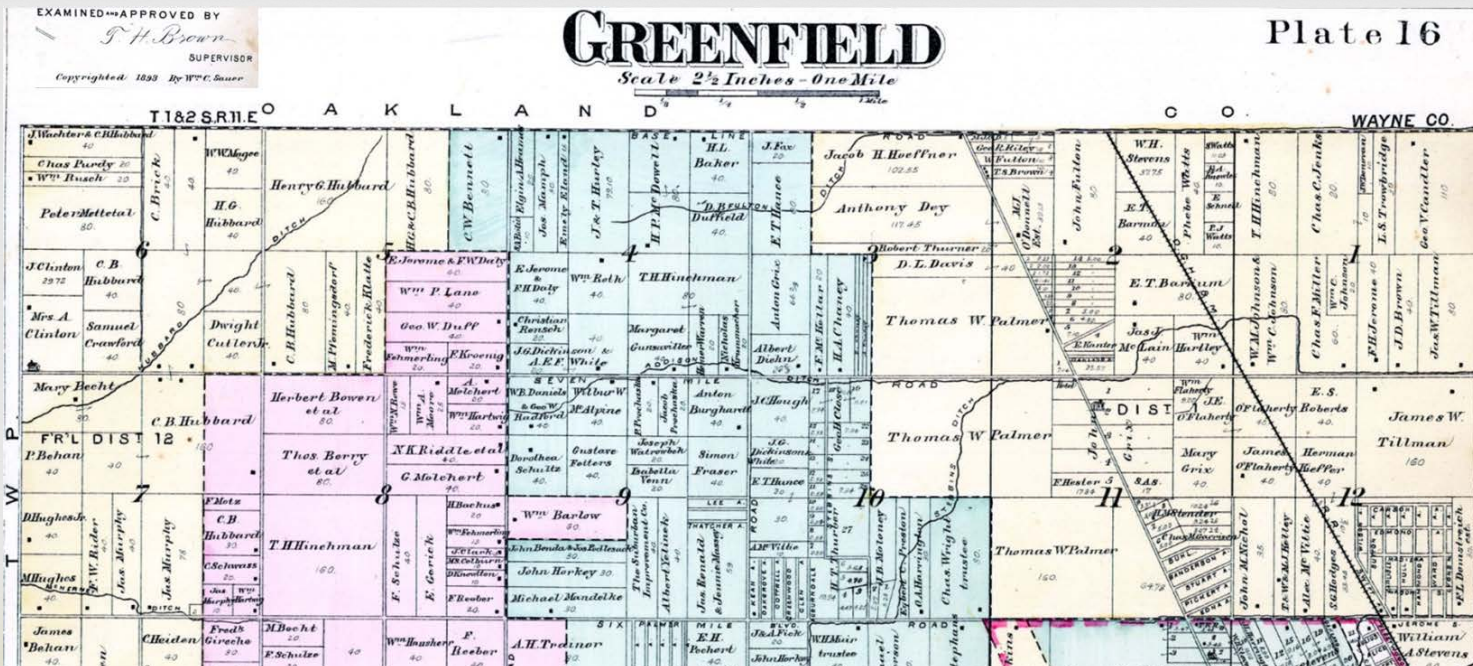
Detroit - 1915

Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty

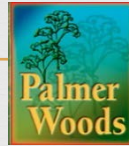


Sen. Thomas Palmer

- ✧ In 1893 Senator Thomas Palmer donated 188 acres of land south of 7 Mile to the city for “the good of everybody.” This would become Palmer Park.
- ✧ Senator Palmer passed away in 1913. In 1915, a northern plat of land was given from his estate to his family
- ✧ The land was immediately sold to Charles Burton for development in 1915
 - ✧ Burton has developed over 20 communities in Southeast Michigan
- ✧ Palmer Woods Company was founded in April, 1915 to form a neighborhood marketed as an oasis, free from the grime of the city



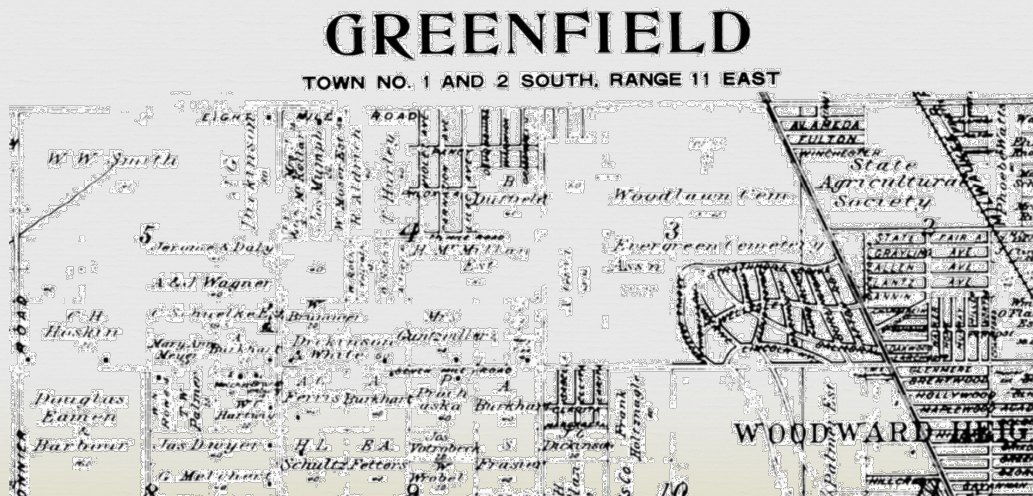
Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty



- ❧ Burton hired Ossian Simonds from Grand Rapids as the landscape architect
 - ❧ President of American Landscape Architects
 - ❧ Several works all over the country, many of which are on the National Register of Historic Places items
 - ❧ Simonds laid out Palmer Woods' streets as curving avenues, a break in the rigid gridiron tradition of Detroit. Building lots are irregular in shape, as a result of Simonds work the lots in Palmer Woods are individual without any duplications, but as a whole the area is beautifully harmonious
 - ❧ From the Palmer Woods advertisement: “The landscape treatment personally planned by the famous landscape architect Simmonds, retains all the natural beauty of the place and ads the charm of winding drives, wooded vistas, and artistically grouped shrubbery”

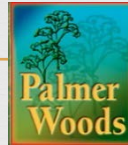


Ossian Simonds

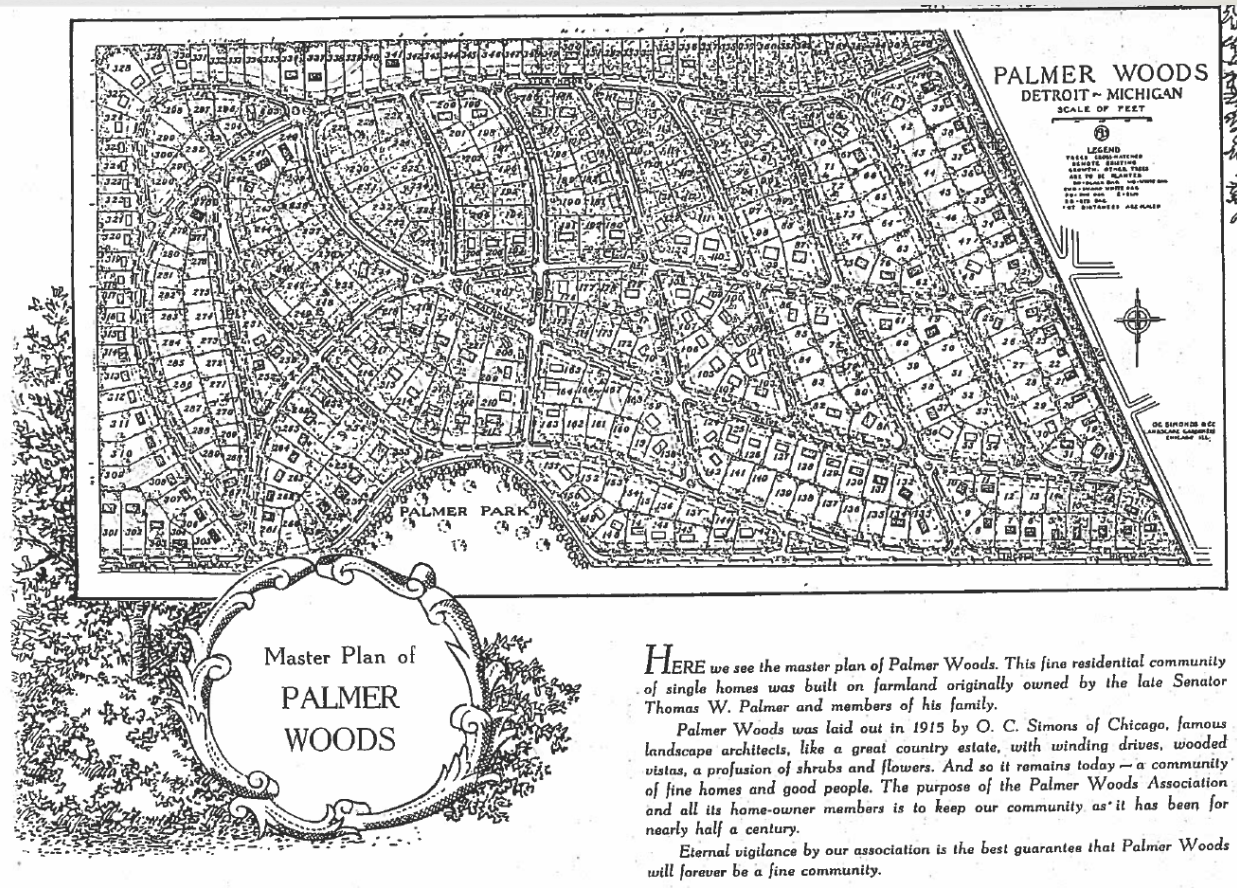


1915

Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty



- ❧ First subdivision platted in Michigan
- ❧ Large Lots - all over 75 feet wide
- ❧ Layed out for privacy and beauty
- ❧ Restrictions on building materials, garages, setback lines, grade of the land, fences

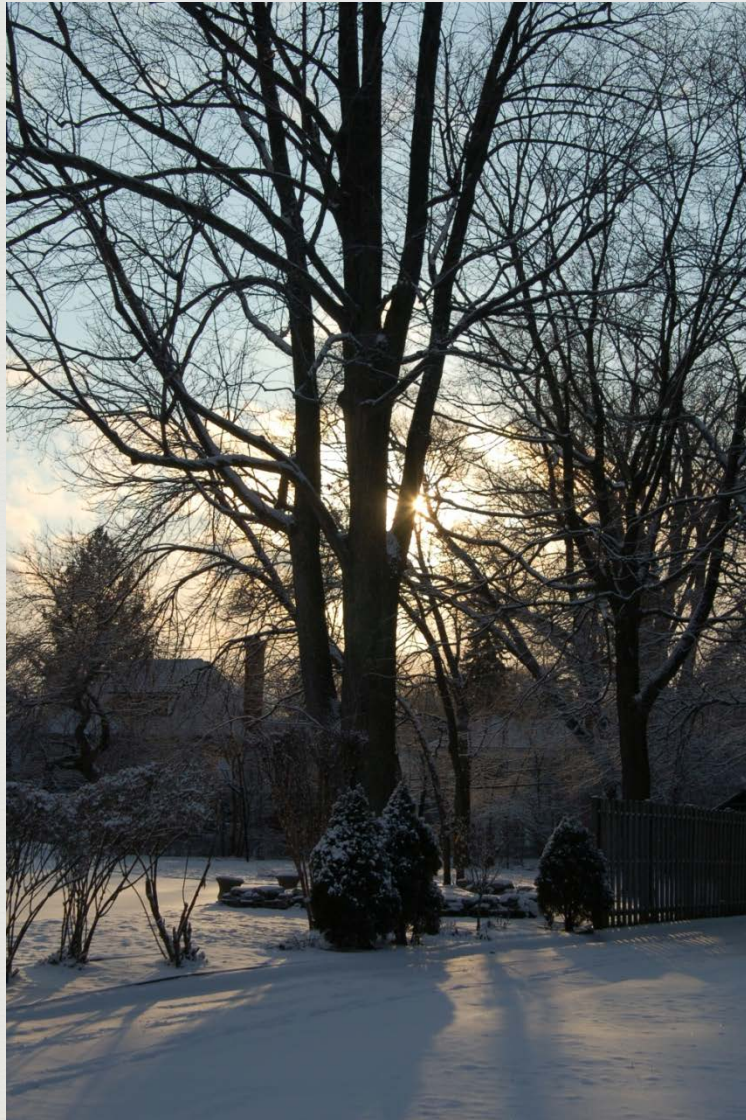
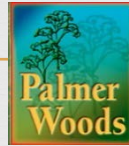


HERE we see the master plan of Palmer Woods. This fine residential community of single homes was built on farmland originally owned by the late Senator Thomas W. Palmer and members of his family.

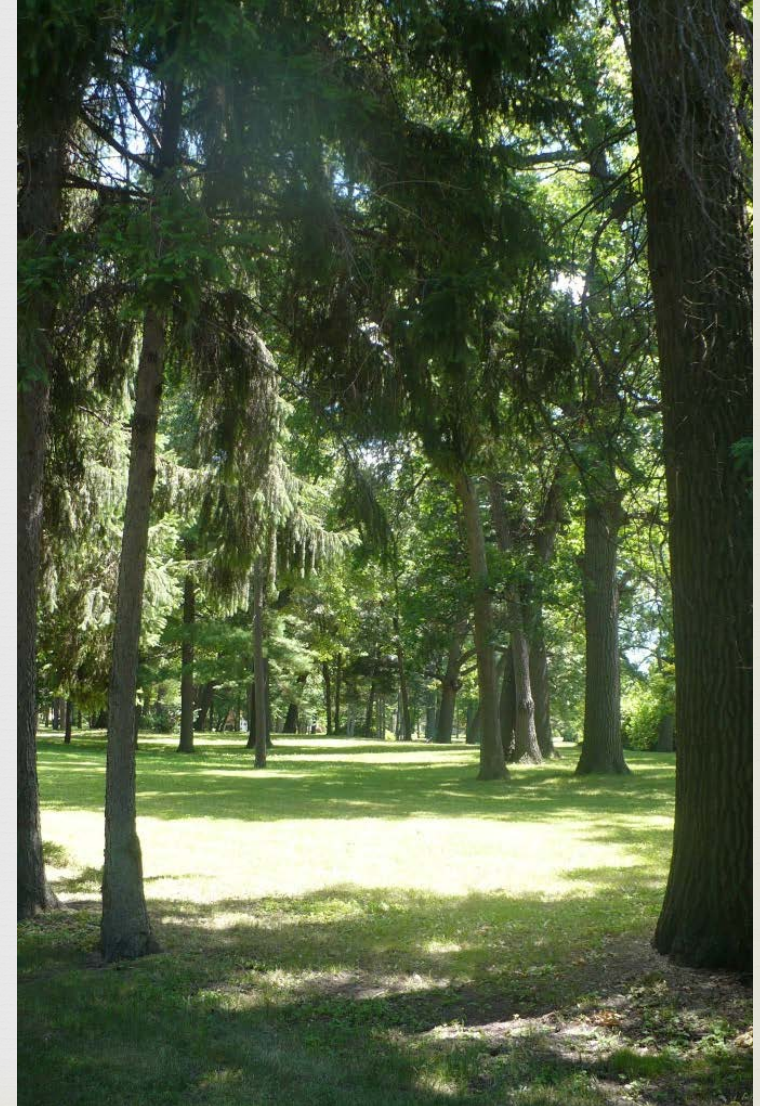
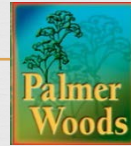
Palmer Woods was laid out in 1915 by O. C. Simons of Chicago, famous landscape architects, like a great country estate, with winding drives, wooded vistas, a profusion of shrubs and flowers. And so it remains today – a community of fine homes and good people. The purpose of the Palmer Woods Association and all its home-owner members is to keep our community as it has been for nearly half a century.

Eternal vigilance by our association is the best guarantee that Palmer Woods will forever be a fine community.

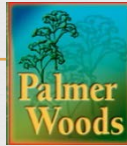
Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty



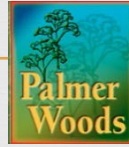
Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty



Palmer Woods – A Place of Beauty

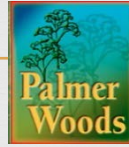


Architects & Architecture



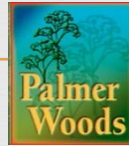
- ❧ Tudor Revival is the most prevalent residential style found in Palmer Woods.
- ❧ Derived from English Medieval and early Renaissance architecture of the Elizabethan (1558-1603) and the Jacobean (1603-1625) periods.
- ❧ Tudor Revival
 - ❧ One of the most common residential styles found in Detroit from the 1890s to 1940s
 - ❧ Stressed structural integrity, quality materials, and fine craftsmanship
 - ❧ Characterized by medieval design elements such as battlements, twisted chimney stacks, half-timbering, heraldic stained glass, Tudor arches, and leaded windows
 - ❧ Roofs are generally of slate of random widths and a full range of colors including purple, red, and unfading green
 - ❧ Features include classical moldings and Doric columns
 - ❧ The floor plans are irregular and the interior spaces are freely adapted to meet the requirements of modern living

Architects & Architecture



- ❧ The Palmer Woods Historic District Includes 297 structures
- ❧ 202 constructed between 1915 and 1940
- ❧ 95 constructed after 1940
- ❧ Those post 1940 structures do not detract from the character of the district. They maintain the setback, scale, materials and quality of workmanship so characteristic of the district while enhancing the neighborhood with diverse architecture

Architects & Architecture



∞ Richard Marr

- ∞ Born in Detroit in 1886; Marr attended Harvard and received a degree in architecture in 1911. After practicing for two years in Boston, Marr returned to Detroit, where he specialized in designing homes and apartment houses in Detroit and its suburbs.



1771 Balmoral Drive

The Alfred Fisher House, 1925

Tudor Revival Style of red brick laid in English bond. Limestone quoins, window surrounds, and apex stones contrast with the red brick.

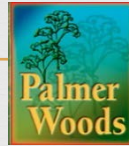


19221 Strathcona

The Harvey Stowe & Mabel Durand, 1921

Greek Revival provides perfectly symmetrical presentation framed by stone quoins, a monumental gabled portico with elaborate dentils, half fan light in the tympanum and supported by columns and pilasters in the Ionic order.

Architects & Architecture



Richard Marr



1530 Wellesley
The I.H. Nie House, 1923

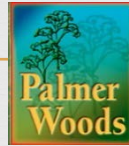
Mediterranean style villa boasting a lovely conservatory that enhances its unique appearance. Endless landscaping with fountain statue, brick walled yard and limestone patios in the rear.



19386 Cumberland
The Daniel and Mabel Fisher House, 1927

This 8,000 square foot English Tudor is a massive structure completed in red brick, limestone, and flat-sawn timber, with an architectural-slate roof. The Fishers had sent Marr to London for a month to replicate the ubiquitous Tudor style.

Architects & Architecture



☞ Clarence Day

- ☞ Born in Detroit in 1886; Day opened his own firm in 1915 and eventually merged with Alvin Harley and Harold Ellington. Day was known as the “Designer of Town and Country Homes” and designed 10 homes in Palmer Woods.



19366 Cumberland

The K.T. Keller House, 1926

This home is a fabulous stucco and timber Elizabethan design. Carved limestone provides an arched entry way and a massive bay window with leaded glass windows.

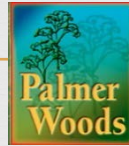


1411 Wellesley

The Peter Martin House, 1924

This magnificent Tudor includes a Pewabic tiled vestibule leading to a receiving area with oak floors and walls, hand cast ceiling with medallion motif, roped crown moldings and a sweeping staircase ascending to the second level. The varieties of woods on the first floor alone include oak, pecan, walnut, and mahogany.

Architects & Architecture



❧ W. C. Morris



1565 Balmoral
1926

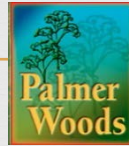
This home exemplifies the excellence and finest traditions of the Tudor Revival period. The traditional Tudor arch is evident above the front entrance and in the curved archway framing the veranda adjacent to the living room. Diamond shaped leaded-glass windows abound across the vast expanse of the home. Capped by a multi-color slate roof, this magnificent 8,500 square foot structure uses a stucco exterior trimmed with ornamental brick trim in geometric and irregular patterns.



19500 Cumberland
The William Mercer House ,1928

Finely detailed Tudor Revival home characterized by attention to quality materials and craftsmanship. The façade utilized a sophisticated play of surface textures and patterns and is dominated by a central gable, which contains the entranceway. The central gable combines red brick executed in diaper work, limestone, and polychromatic tiles.

Architects & Architecture



☞ Alvin E. Harley

☞ Born in Canada in 1884; Harley was an apprentice of Albert Kahn before opening his practice and eventually working with Marr, Ellington and Day.



1525 Wellesley
1924

This two story stucco and tile Spanish Colonial has lots of distinctive detail, including an abundance of ornamental wrought iron, an unusual in-set balcony, columns and arches, all which serve to accentuate its Spanish motif.

☞ Albert Kahn

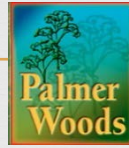
☞ Born in Germany in 1869; Kahn revolutionized the manufacturing industry with his reinforced concrete designs allowing large scale flexible assembly lines.



1611 Lincolnshire
The Moritz Kahn House, 1935

This classic Georgian Colonial has many features that are characteristic of Kahn's early 20th Century Georgian colonials; elaborate wood crown moldings and his signature plaster relief crown of grapes, vines, and scroll in the formal dining room.

Architects & Architecture



☞ Minoru Yamasaki

- ☞ Born in Seattle in 1912; Yamasaki was widely admired for his interior and exterior design to convey feelings of serenity and delight. Best known for his design of the World Trade Center.



19631 Argyle Crescent

The Brooks Barron Residence, 1953

This luxurious urban house had the personality, privacy, and gracious elegance of a suburban or country residence. By means of geometric patterns, rich materials, and visual surprises, Yamasaki masterfully balanced the mysteriousness of their radical design with a covered walkway that leads to a half-shadowed, half-open reflecting pool.

☞ Frank Lloyd Wright

- ☞ Born in Wisconsin in 1867; Wright believed in designing structures that were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture.

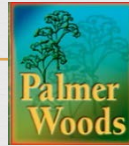


2760 West Seven Mile Road

The Turkel- Bendow House, 1956

Wright's Usonian houses often are "L" shaped in plan, as this one is, and the open side of the "L" faces the large open area southeast of the house. At the southern end, a large two-story living room terminates the longer arm of the "L". The natural gray color of the concrete is used to cast the modular elements; much of the detail is created through the repetition of forms natural to the use of cast elements.

People

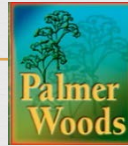


- ❧ Charles W. Burton- developer of Palmer Woods (1700 Lincolnshire, then 19440 Afton)
- ❧ John Ballantyne- financial advisor to the Dodge brothers, President of Detroit Bankers Co. (1570 Balmoral)
- ❧ Alfred Fisher- Chief Engineer of Fisher Body and GM, 2nd youngest brother, wife Alma (1771 Balmoral)
- ❧ William A. Fisher- President of Fisher Body, VP GM (Richard Marr home destroyed by fire)



The Fisher brothers together in 1922. From left: Edward F., Alfred J., William A., Charles Thomas, Frederick John and Lawrence (Larry) Peter.

People



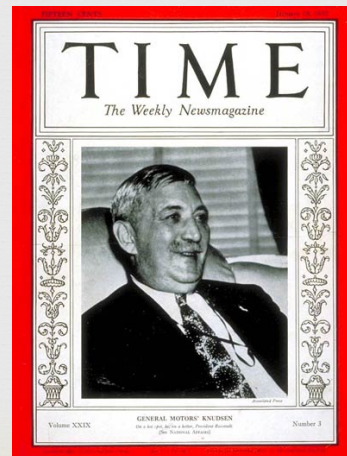
- ❧ Bishop Michael J. Gallagher- (1880 Wellesley)
- ❧ Frank Gorman- Gorman Thomas Insurance Co. (1477 Balmoral)
- ❧ Frank Isbey- President of Detroit Fruit Auction (19475 Argyle Crescent)
- ❧ Edward Jeffries- Mayor of Detroit 1940-47 (19241 Afton)
- ❧ William S. Knudsen- Ford, President of GM 1937-40 and appointed by FDR to head War Mobilization Board during WWII. Has more than 100 entries in Time magazine alone (1501 Balmoral)
- ❧ Marvin E. Coyle- succeeded Knudson as President of Chevrolet (19391 Suffolk)



Bishop Gallagher



Edward Jeffries

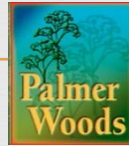


William Knudsen



Marvin Coyle

People



- ❧ K.T. Keller- Pres. Chrysler 1935-49 (19366 Cumberland)
- ❧ Meyer L. Prentis- Treasurer of GM, Established WSU School of Business (1905 Balmoral)
- ❧ Edward M. Plunkett- Real Estate Representative SS Kresge
- ❧ Carl B. Tuttle- Treasurer, SS Kresge (1441 Strathcona)
- ❧ Daniel C. Fisher- Director of SS Kresge (19386 Cumberland)
- ❧ Charles B. Van Dusen- President/ Gen. Mgr. SS Kresge (1830 Balmoral)
- ❧ Percy Evans- VP of Store Operations at SS Kresge (1541 Balmoral)



K.T. Keller

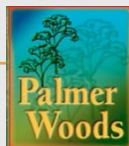


Meyer Prentis

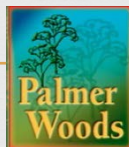


Charles Van
Dusen

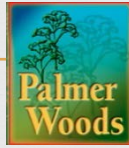
People



People

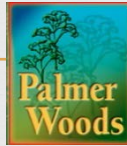


The John A. Kunsky House



1630 Wellesley
Architect: C. Howard Crane
1924

The John A. Kunsky House



- ❧ Cottage Style home designed by famed theater designer C. Howard Crane for Detroit theater and radio entrepreneur John Kunsky
- ❧ Kunsky opened Detroit's first nickelodean in 1905
- ❧ 1917 Kunsky began working with Crane on the Madison Theater

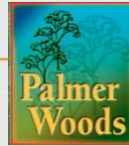


John A. Kunsky

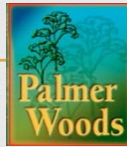


C. Howard Crane

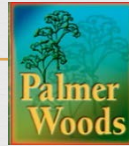
The John A. Kunsky House



The John A. Kunsky House



The John A. Kunsky House

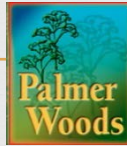


Carport with soaring beamed ceiling and steeply pitched slate roof. Carriage lanterns set in inside the walls. Lovely stuccoed front with radiating sunburst pattern.

Ridges of the roof flare up in the manner of a Cotwold cottage. The steeply pitched roof composed of thick, random slices of lavender, blue, and rust slate tiles.



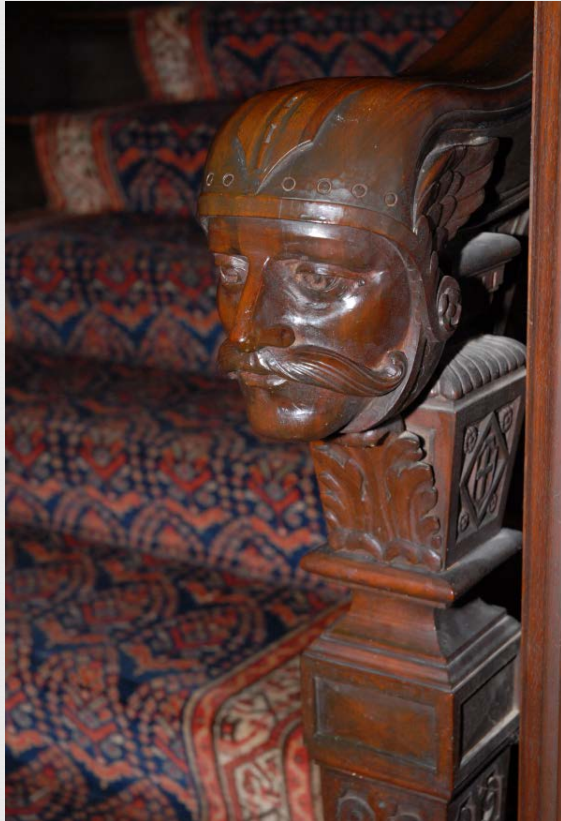
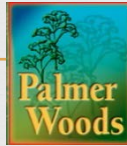
The John A. Kunsky House



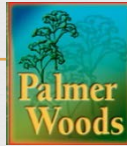
❧ Massive Jacobean carved stone fireplace in the living room



The John A. Kunsky House



The John A. Kunsky House



☞ Handsome hand-carved rosewood paneling



The John A. Kunsky House

