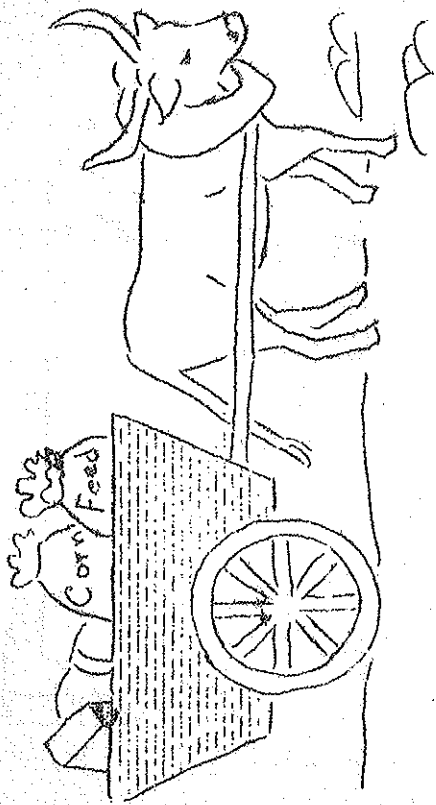




HOPKINS

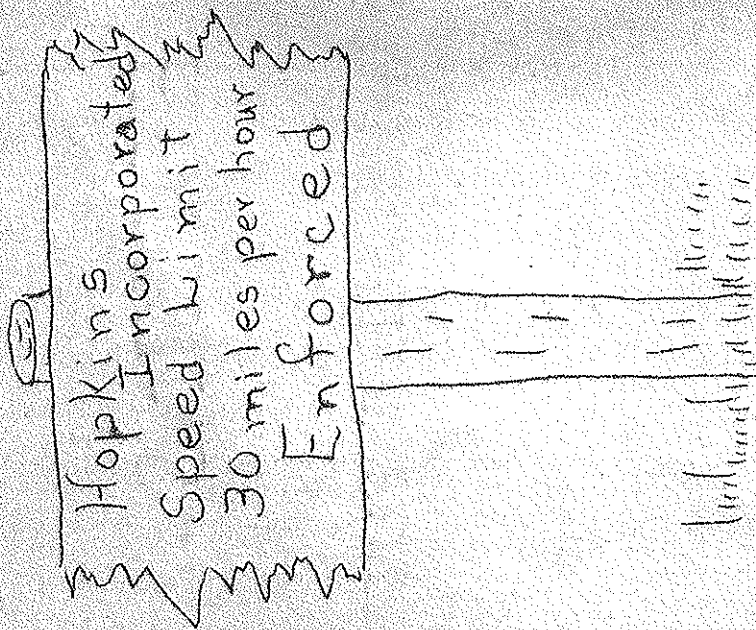
PAST--PRESENT--FUTURE

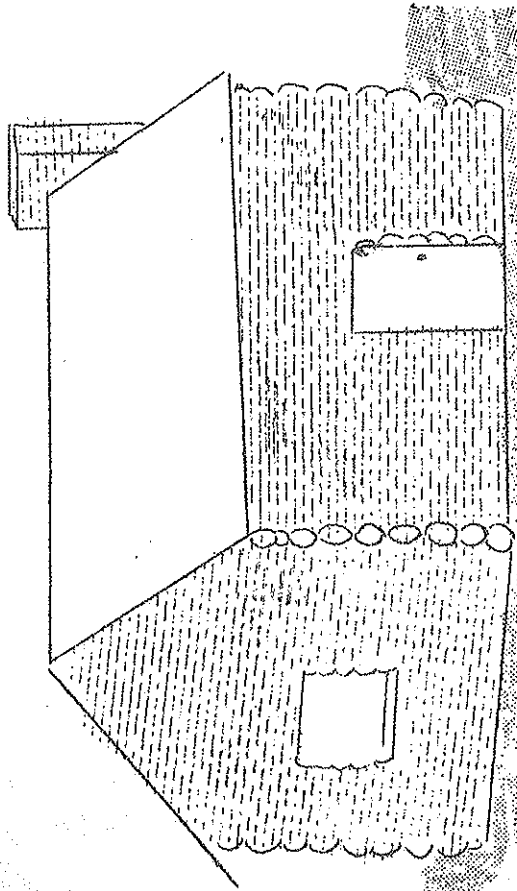


## HOPKINS

### PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

The early settlement of Hopkins began in 1838 with the first settlers being the Round families from Vermont and in 1854 the Hoffmaster Families from Youngstown, Ohio, who were formerly from Pennsylvania and Germany.

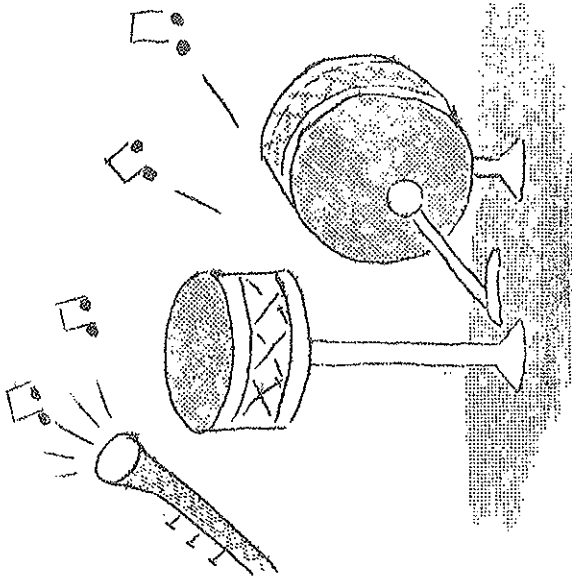




Three communities were formed in Hopkins Township and they were called centers. The first of these was called Hopkins but was later known as Hopkinsburg to distinguish it from the railroad station of the former name. Hopkins, the railroad station, was the second center, and Hilliards on the northeast corner of the township was the third.

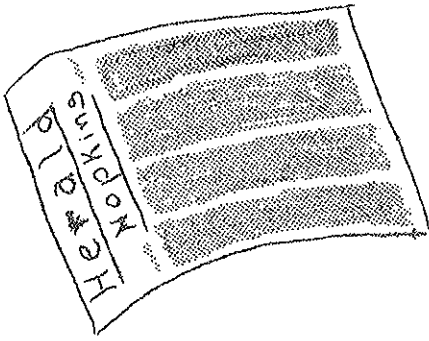
In 1869 the railroad was built through Hopkins, and in the following year, 1870, the village was founded. The town received its name from Oziel Hopkins Round, the first white child born here who died at the age of two. The official name then was Hopkins Station. In 1870 the first group of white inhabitants settled here. The population in that year was three hundred, and in 1874, it increased to four hundred.

In 1872, two bands were organized. One was called the Grand Army Band with Charley Tiefenthal as its leader. The other was just called the Hopkins Band and



was also led by Charley Tiefenthal. They played for patriotic and social, community events.

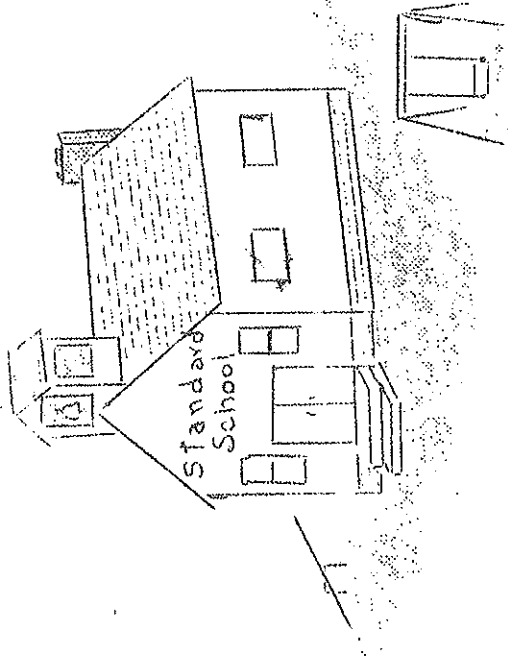
There were about six stores in Hopkins in 1874. Burnip and Iliff were the first merchants. The very first owners of the land upon which the village of Hopkins is located were Erastus Congdon and Elder Buck. Dr. E. H. Wait purchased a tract of land from Mr. Congdon in 1856 and with the help of Robert Baird constructed a steam saw-mill, which was soon controlled solely by Baird. Dr. Wait then erected a store. He owned and operated this business and some years later sold it to William Richmond. In 1861 he built a flour mill and began to operate it. The second store was built by Hopper and Smith. Drs. Darling, Fox, and Stuck were practicing physicians in this locality about 1860. Hopkins was to be progressive because of the post office, mill, and stores that were established in the early settlement of the village.



"The Herald" newspaper was started in Hopkins in 1872, and it continued until 1903. Then, the Hopkins news was brought to us through the "Allegan Press." This newspaper was soon replaced by the "Allegan Gazette" which is still in operation. The "Hopkins Booster" was published in Wayland by Alex Holman and was sold to the Hopkins people about the same time as the Gazette and was printed until 1925. Mrs. William Nicolai was a writer for the Booster in 1924 and wrote for it until it was discontinued. The subscription price was twenty-five cents for one year.

An exchange bank was established in 1890 with Mr. Furber and Mr. Kidder as founders. The bank's capital in that year was thirty thousand dollars.

In 1903 a new white wood school was erected. The school building was not quite as large as some others, but the community was very proud of it and the fact that they had a faculty of three teachers and more than a hundred students enrolled. This school was later developed



from a tenth grade to a twelfth grade school. The directors of the school at that time were Dee Kidder, L. G. Walters, and El Wolfinger. In 1903 the graduating class consisted of seven girls and three boys. The present brick was erected in 1911, and the gym was added in 1937.

The early churches of Hopkins were Congregational and Methodist in denomination. Some of the first lodges here were the Knights of Maccabees, the Lady Maccabees, and Masonic Fraternity.

The first highways were laid out by S. Barber in April, 1906.

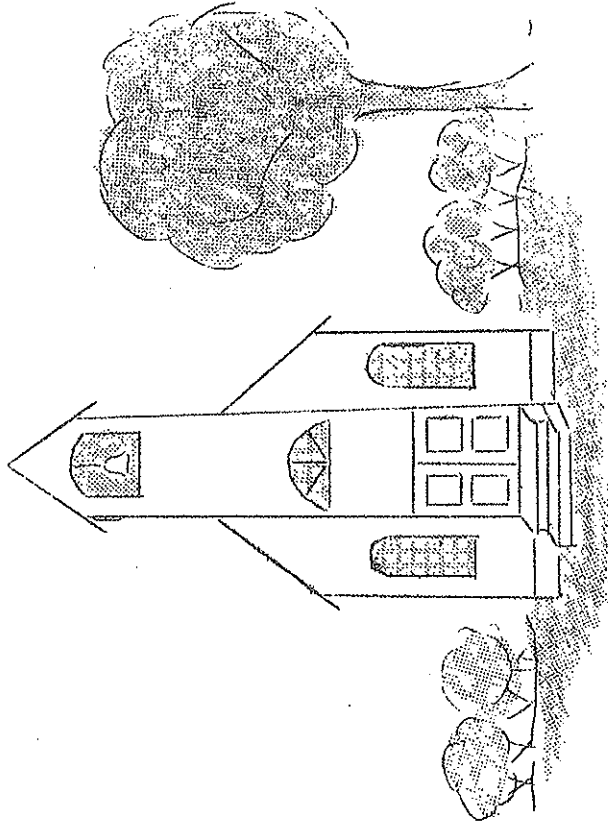
In 1903, B. O. Button built a cider and peppermint mill. Also, in that year a canning factory was established by Mr. V. Stuck who managed it. At that time a hotel was built with William Weiss.

and George W. Edson, wagonmaker. We also had some very influential stock-buyers whose names were Mr. Yeakey and Mr. Snyder. Later on, John and William McKinnon took over the business.

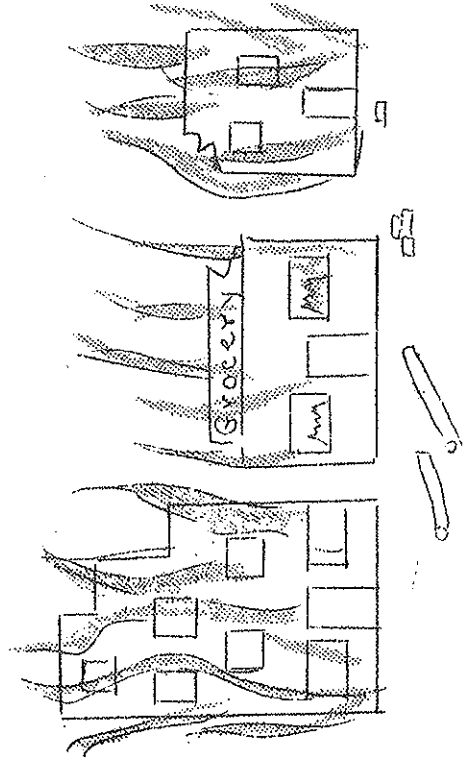
In 1920, when Hopkins had become well organized, a tragic thing occurred which almost daunted the community's fighting spirit.

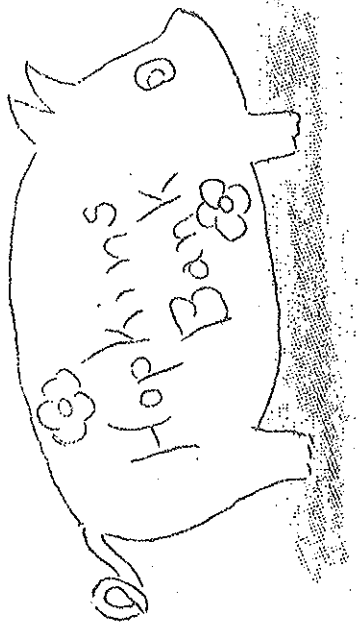
A terrific fire broke out in the business district. Watkin's large department store Furber's bank, John Maloney's blacksmith shop, and both telephone offices--the Bell and Citizens--were all destroyed. Many of the owners refused to rebuild; some however, did build later.

Hopkins was incorporated in 1921. Also in that year, electric lights were installed throughout town. In 1923 the first village council was organized. The members were John Maloney, Floyd Roberts, Edward Furber, Claude Hoffmaster, John McKinnon,



In 1910, Mr. William Nicolai built the Standard Garage; in 1911 he built the lumber yard which he kept until 1917, and then sold it. Some of the other business men in Hopkins at that time were as follows: Wm. Clark, Auctioneer; Furber and Kidder, bankers; John Maloney, Carroll, and Musser, blacksmiths; Miller and Leggett, cheese manufacturers; H. Green, N. Defendorf, and O. Grummon, carpenters; J. Brinkert, J. Schlintz, Wm. Martin, and Frank Kemano, coopers; J. D. Campbell and N. E. Leighton, doctors; Mrs. Harry Snyder dressmaker; Noggle and Gordon, Ice dealers; R. L. Taylor, Justice of Peace; Mrs. Moore, millinery; F. B. Watkins, W. H. Dendel, and S. B. Lovall, merchants; D. Kibby, meat market; S. B. Lovall, opera house; F. A. Pulhemus, publisher of Hopkins Herald; Thomas Gilligan, postmaster; Lewis Young, shoemaker; Rufus Folwell, station agent; S. B. Lovall, undertaker;





and William Watkins. John Maloney was president.

Now in 1946, Hopkins, with a population of about five hundred, is boasting of its success in bringing this town up to the standards it has now attained.

Its business places now are the bank, with a capital of \$839,722.30, and its officers are: C. B. Hoffmaster, president; Ralph Kreuzer, vice president; Anna B. Walter, cashier; Ruth D. Reno, Teller. The directors are C. B. Hoffmaster, A. C. Frue, Ralph Kreuzer, and Harley McBride. Some of the other merchants and prominent citizens are: Vernon Weick, Weick's Dept Store; Dwight PUNCHES, ice cream parlor and locker plant; William and Dwight PUNCHES, grocery and meat store; Leon Spahn, Spahn's Tavern; John Bloom, Hopkins Tavern; Ed Bilski, postmaster; Meade Johnson, creamery, with Wm. Watkins, manager; Dorothy J. Baske, librarian; Earl Satterlee, hardware; garage, owned by T. W. Nicolai; gas station and garage with Ed Arehart owner, operated by Ted Bilski, and Ralph Crismon; Max Schweikert and Everett Duryee, owners and operators of a gas station; Francis Moore and Sons, feed mill;

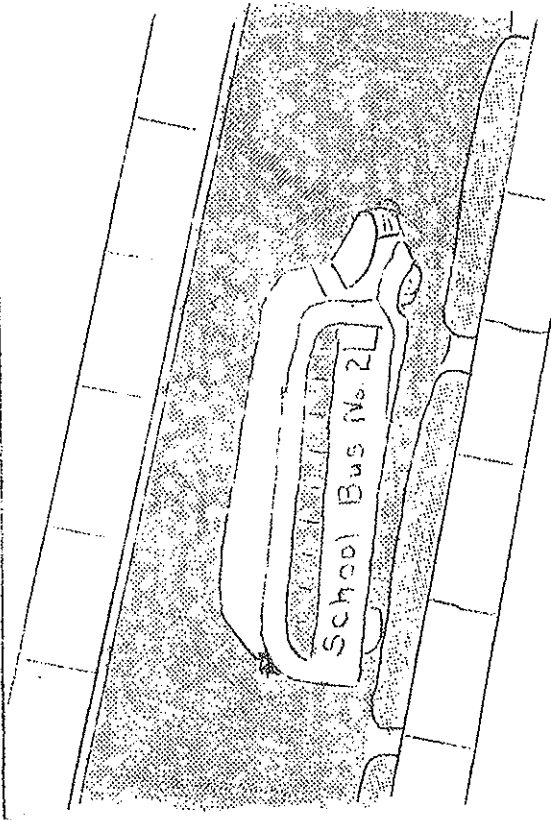
Gerald Nash; lumber and coal; stock yards, owned by Walter Shafer, managed and operated by George Wagner; Forrest McKinnon, slaughter house, Bert VanderKolk, doctor; Walter Graves, veterinarian; 3-A. Oil Co. distributors, owned and managed by Ed. Arehart and Mrs. Miller; Bus Mort, radio repairman; Horace and Art Elliott, Carl Steffens, and George Barnum, painters; Jim Brinkert, barber; Peter McNabb, bricklayer Bill Martin, carpenter; David Wesley and Leon Arnsman, roofers; Charles Ilor, farm insurance; sugar and eggs, Linden Buck; Bernard Weber, well man and plumber; Leonard Clawson, plumber and electrician; Wm. Nicolai, real estate; Gail Baxter, stockyard restaurant; Earle Wynne, beauty operator; Orlo Reynolds, Reynolds' Dairy; Implement store owned by Francis Moore & Sons, operated by Wm. Blanchard; Fred Leggett, gravel trucking; Ed Nicolai and Luther Rice, guitar lessons; Railroad express and Machine shop, hammer mills, Don Hughes; Leon Glascott, fire chief; Oscar Zimmerman, dredger; Lou Ellinger, marshal; Ralph Baxter and Wm. Mullen, rural mail carriers; pickle factory, Walkers; Ted Nicolai, President of town council; Leonard Brenner, Standard Oil Distributor; John Jones, welder; K. B. Schaibly, print shop; Winifred Snyder, bearding house; Frank Dyer, Bell Telephone Agent; Rev. Merrill, retired Methodist pastor; and Klineesters, Funeral Home. We have three churches; a Lutheran Church with Rev. Lockner as pastor; a Methodist Church, Rev. Wingard is pastor, and the Community Church. There is a Ladies Aid Society for each church and a W. C. T. U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) for the ladies of the Community and Methodist Churches. Miss Martha F. Runkel is the president.

There are numerous clubs and lodges in Hopkins at the present time. Mrs. K. B. Schaibly is the president of the Ladies Literary Club. There also is the Order of the Eastern Star with Marion Sebright as Worthy Matron, and Earl Satterlee as Worthy Patron, and Masonic Lodge with Frank Dyer as Worshipful Master. Mr. Al. Deal is Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mrs. A. Hendrixson is president of the Hospital Guild.

In our High School we have an enrollment of three hundred and ninety students. Kennard Schaibly is our Superintendent; Al Deal, principal; Clarence Van Der Kolk, Science, Algebra, and Geometry; Donald Christlieb, Agriculture, Biology and Shop; Lynn Henderson, English and Social studies Mrs. Floyd Clark, Girls' Athletics, and Junior High; Mrs. Edith Powers, 5th and 6th Grades; Miss Norma Wamhoff, 4th Grade; Mrs. Walter Sebright, 3rd. Grade; Miss Wilma Commans, 2nd. Grade; Mrs. Russell Coffey, 1st. Grade; Mrs. Raymond Wykoski, Kindergarten. Mrs. Wilma Baske and Mrs. Laura Smith are the cooks for hot lunch and Halden Hazen is the janitor. The School Board Members are: E. B. Arehart, President; Ziba Collings, Secretary; Carl Hoffmaster, Treasurer; Howard McBride and Waynard Miller, Trustees.

By following their motto, "Progressive and Enterprising," the first settlers and the people of Hopkins up to this time, worked and gave us this little town to enjoy.

Hopkins has many possibilities for the future. At present there are a variety of stores, many of which could be constructed



into larger and better buildings. One of the most important ways to improve Hopkins is to develop more manufacturing to provide work for the men of the community. In the future it will be possible to build a bakery, a drug store, and a larger grocery store to supply the people with the needed products.

The small department store located in Hopkins could be remodeled into a modern, much better building with an entire department for clothing.

At this time a new hardware store and theater are under construction. This theater will be one form of needed recreation. A roller skating rink or a bowling alley are two other ways recreation could be provided to prevent the younger generations from getting into trouble.

A new and modern school should be constructed. This building would make school more educational and enjoyable for the students and residents of Hopkins.

When Hopkins attains these forms of business, educational, and recreational centers, it will be one of the best small towns in Michigan.

\* \* \*

Written by the Class of 1950 (9th Graders)  
November 1946

ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
We, of the 9th grade class, wish to express our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Burl Lovall and Mr. & Mrs. William F. Nicolai for their worthy aid in making it possible for us to publish this book.

References:

A Twentieth Century History of Allegan County, Michigan, by Dr. Henry F. Thomas

Information about Hopkins Station from the library of Mr. & Mrs. Burl Lovall.

General Information from Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Nicolai, Mr. & Mrs. Bert Linsley, and Mr. & Mrs. Claude Hoffmaster.

