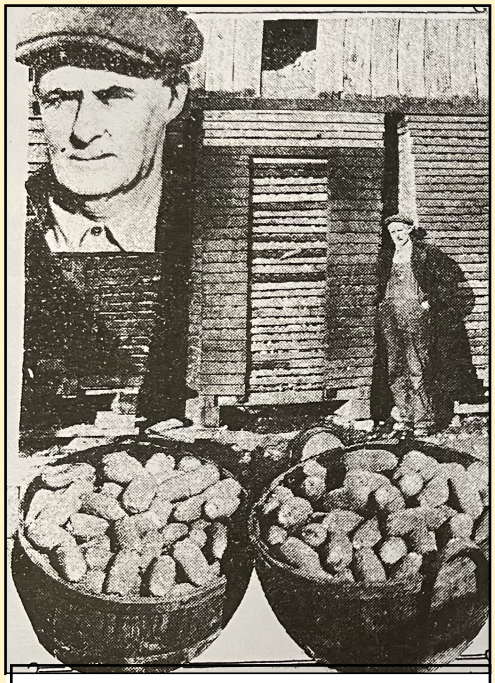
Table of Contents	Page
William F. Crowe	1
William F. Crowe cont.	2
127 Barnum Street	3
Events and Contact Information	4

The Grist Grinder

VOL. 06 NO. 01 The Historical Preservation Society of Dundee Michigan February 2026

February 1, 1929 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON WILLIAM F. CROWE AND HIS POP CORN

POP CORN IS HIS CROP



The accompanying layout shows W. F. Crowe of Dundee, Michigan, who used all of his 147 acre farm for raising pop corn. He's shown by one of his big storage bins which takes care of the particular job of properly drying. Baskets of Japanese hulled pop corn, which he raises exclusively are showing.

Pop corn is the sole crop on the 147-acre farm of W.F. Crowe and son just west of Dundee. The 16 years' experience growing pop corn has proved to Mr. Crowe that it is a crop that provides a 'farm relief" as far as he is concerned. With this, as the only stand now in his field. Mr. Crowe asserts that he can take life easy about five months of the year. He has no interest in any other crop nor extras which pile up chores on the farm. Mr. Crowe has discovered two other advantages of growing pop corn aside from his giving liberal relief from the usual full time program of drudgery for soil tillers. He finds pop corn can be marketed regularly. Any time at a good price. It offers no particular problem of pest perils. There is a growing demand for pop corn. Concession stands burgeon forth on every hand to offer buttered pop corn to the public eager, always to keep the jaws crunching. What would circuses, parks, and pavilions do without pop corn? Now, vending machines economically occupying corners of theaters and building lobbies are boosting still further the popped outlet, of pop corn . CROPS sell easily; Mr. Crowe remarks that he could contract to sell it all at one loading anytime he wishes. But he prefers to have "something to sell" and arranges to sell it in smaller lots throughout the winter and spring. He does not have to bother about shipping. Most of his purchasers send their trucks for the corn. He has many other consumer-buyers who drive to his farm to get a bushel or two to pop corn during the winter. Last summer Mr. Crowe and his son, Elwyn, raised 7,000 bushels of pop corn on their farm. They have another 1000 bushels to sell which they raised on rented land. They are able to till this acreage because they use two tractors at all times. Even the long hours of the plowing and cultivation seasons are not irksome when power machinery is used, Mr. Crowe remarks. "I really enjoy running the tractor and regret to leave the seat when night comes," this farmer says. Usually 30 acres are cultivated in a day. A new type cultivator was… **continued next page, copied as written.**

was used last year on the pop corn farm. This was attached to the front of the tractor and simplified the operation of the tractor astride the rows. "When I recall that the first plowing I did was with an ox team. I sometimes wonder if that was in another world, " Mr. Crowe remarks. **No Rotation There.** Advocates of crop rotation have a hard time of it when they encounter Mr. Crowe's methods of using the soil. It is obvious that with a one-crop plan for all fields, year after year, there is no rotation in the tilling scheme. "There is some satisfaction in being able to do something that everyone says cannot be done and successfully," is Mr. Crowe's reply to the supporters of rotation. He does not neglect the care of the soil, however, he uses fertilizer regularly, sometimes drilling, and sometimes broadcasting. He sows sweet clover in the cornfields. This crop and the cornstalks are always plowed under. The legumes keep up the nitrogen in the soil. Last season 100 acres was seeded in sweet clover. This was seeded in July, and the last cultivation followed. Besides enriching the soil, the clover crop keeps down the weeds, Mr. Crowe points out, making late cultivation of the corn unnecessary. That much labor is saved, and there is no danger of damage to the corn roots which are close to the surface Mr. Crowe says. **SAYS IT'S PROFITABLE.** Mr. Crowe says of his pop corn farm. "There is good money in this kind of farming, but the best thing about it is the fact that at no time of the year have we any chores to do. When we use the tractor, we quit in time to get it ready at night. In the morning, we do not go near it until 7 o'clock, then crank it up and go to work. In the spring we work 10 hours and after the corn is in, we cut it down to eight hours. Last year we were hoeing for seven weeks. We have generally the same gang, or most of them, mostly older men and boys. Plowing starts in April. By the last of July we are through until husking, the forepart of October. That gives us August and September with not a thing to do but shell corn about once a week. Husking generally takes about six weeks and by the last of November, we are starting our vacation until Spring. "You couldn't give me the best herd of cows in the county if I were compelled to keep the cows." Mr. Crowe has no fear of loss due to having "all eggs in one basket" under the single crop plan. He is certain the advantage is on his side because he is able to slough off the varied burden of diversified farming. Also no horses and no cows, means no chores to lengthen the working day, Mr. Crowe insist. The dairyman's milk bottles are seen on his front porch.

In 1930 this is the residence of William F. Crowe. This house known in Dundee for many years as the Hiser house.

The house was built in 1906 by Roger and Mary Crowe. After the death of Roger and Mary Crowe, it was occupied by William F. and Leo Crowe and their children Jeanette, Elwyn and Margaret, When Margaret married Clarence Hiser they moved into the upstairs using an outside entrance created to the second story. Margaret and Clarence continued to live in the house. The house was purchased along with three other farms by Cabela's. D & B Builders House Movers of Monroe, owners Don and Brenda Brown, purchased the house from Cabella's and moved it 28 May 2003 to 5700 Petersburg Road. This was the 2nd time that the house was moved. It was first moved to make room for the US 23 southbound exit ramp, which is where the originally house was built. Lone Star Steak house, now Great Lakes Eatery and Pub was built on the vacant spot created when the house was moved the second time.

127 Barnum Street

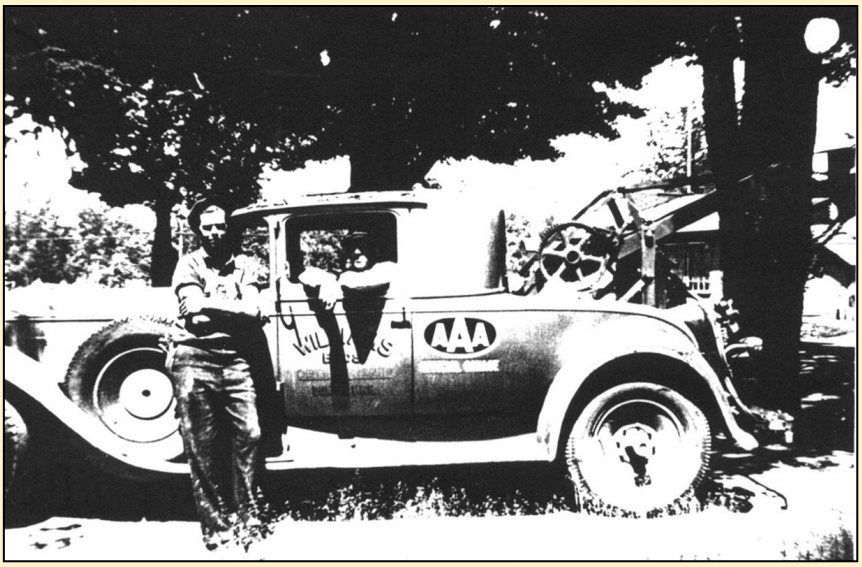
Williams Bros. Automotive Sold To John Juckette.

Mr. Juckette took possession of the business October 1. He purchased the garage and showroom, the used car lot, inventory and equipment from Mr. Williams and will continue to offer complete automotive service. The business will be renamed John Juckette's Service and will offer complete automotive and light truck service on any make. He plans to add used cars in the near future. New signs are to be installed shortly and redecorating has been planned. Hours of operation will be from 8 am until 5:30 daily and from 8 am until noon on Saturdays. John Williams will continue with the new ownership. Mr. Juckette emphasized that all service work will be done by certified mechanics.

October 4, 1984 newspaper article

Mr. Williams started in business in Dundee in 1930 repairing automobiles in a location on Main Street next to the present Dundee Fire Department location. He became a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in 1934, continuing with the Chrysler-Plymouth agency until 1974. From 1974 until the present he sold used cars and did service work at his well-known location on Barnum Street. He built the present workshop in 1939, and in 1949 he added the showroom. Mr. Williams' long automotive career included selling GMC trucks from 1945 until 1956. During those years he supplied many schools in the area with buses. He received the Chrysler Quality Dealer Award for many of the years he operated the agency and was widely-known and accepted throughout the area by his many customers and business acquaintances. He is a past-president of the Monroe County Automobile Dealers Association, and he served as the Mayor of Dundee for many terms. As "Gus" and his wife, Helen, (who capably assisted him these many years) go into retirement, both they and the community can recall with pride their long tenure of successful business.

All material from the Douglas Heinlen Collection.



Gus Williams and Donald Bakeman ca. 1940

Adah Wadsworth is sitting in(?) a new Ford just delivered to her husband Lewis' Ford dealership. The cars were delivered at the train station on the east end of town and then driven to the dealership. Adah is sitting on a box that contains the body of the car. The dealer had to finish the car himself. A new house is under construction next door.

Lewis Wadsworth on a tractor at his Ford dealership. This picture was taken at a later time than the one above it. The house on the right is finished. The box-like structure labeled gasoline in the last picture appears to be replaced with a gasoline pump.

Calendar of Events 2026

Community Center
LUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
Sunday March 29, 2026

Community Center
FOOD BOOTH: Wolverine Knife Show
Friday and Saturday March 20 & 21, 2026

Community Center
FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS
Garage Sale. (Was Family to Family Sale.)
Saturday March 28, 2026, from 9am. - 4pm.
Contact: Lisa House

Community Center
TRASH & TREASURE SALE
Thursday and Friday June 18 & 19, 2026.
from 9am. - 4pm.

Wolverine Park
MAYFLY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Saturday June 13, 2026.

Old Mill Wolverine Park
FISHING DERBY
Saturday August 22, 2026.

Community Center
FOOD BOOTH Wolverine Knife Show.
Friday & Saturday September 18 - 19, 2026

Wolverine Park
FOOD BOOTH Pumpkin Palooza
Saturday October 3, 2026.

Community Center.
LUNCH WITH MRS. CLAUS
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, HOME TOUR
Sunday December 6, 2026.

If you would like to showcase your home, please call the museum and give us your name and address and the chairperson will contact you.

NOTE: More information to follow as we approach the event date.

Historical Preservation Society of Dundee
The Old Mill Museum
242 Toledo Street,
Dundee, Michigan 48131

(734) 529-8596 www.dundeeoldmill.com
Director: Shirley Massingill
Web Consultant: Douglas Steinman
Newsletter Editor: Grace Hudson
e-mail archives@dundeeoldmill.com
President: Jane Beaubien
Vice President: Randi Kominek
Secretary: Mary Vergowven
Treasurer: Lisa Smith
Trustee: Cinnie Burnet
Trustee: Marilyn Larson
Trustee: Barbara Roe
Trustee: Michael McClendon

734-216-5601
"Call Scott. Let Him Worry About The Food!"
CATERING BY SCOTT

Don't forget
2026 Membership Dues are due

Membership levels are: Individual: $15 per year
Family: $20 per year
Senior: (over the age of 55) $10 per year
Senior Family: (over the age of 55) $15 per year
To become a member just register online anytime, or in person Friday to Monday 12:00 – 4:00 pm and pay in person, use credit card on line, or send your payment
to: *Historical Preservation Society of Dundee*
242 Toledo Street
Dundee, MI. 48131