

Another Commends Restoring of Mill

I was much interested in the account of the rebuilding of the mill that stood for years at Goodison. I'm a grandson of Samuel Barnes who operated the mill from the early eighties to some time after 1912. An uncle told me he was the inventor of the turbine water wheel that was used for power. Mr. Miller is certainly to be commended for his interest in improving the surroundings at Goodison.

Roy V. Barnes

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The picturesque building above is a liberal restoration of the 125-year-old flour mill in Goodison, now being built by Dale

O. Miller, Sr., across the road from the Rochester Gear Works.

—Clarion Staff Photo

Goodison Building Restoration Will Be Dining Hall, Cider Mill

(Editor's note: As the article is hard to read in photocopy we have transcribed it below. Thanks to Barbara Barber for providing this article.)

"When the restoration of the old mill at Goodison is completed the mill will be used to grind apples rather than wheat for flour as in the old days, according to Dale O. Miller, Sr., owner of the picturesque enterprise."

The building now nearing completion is one of two which will eventually occupy the site. Mr. Miller plans to erect the second building, which will be the cider mill proper, a short distance downstream.

The present building will be used for the time being as a dining hall for employees of Rochester Gear Works across the road, but some day may be a fine public dining room, Mr. Miller says.

The second floor will accommodate 100 people. One of its outstanding features is a large cut stone fireplace, the reason for the handsome outside chimney.

Electrical current for the lighting and heating will be generated partially by a generator which is among the very earliest of those built by Edison, bearing the serial number #53.

The Edison generator will be housed on the first floor and will be operated by the mill wheel. The mill stream, besides operating the wheel will also operate a turbine and together the two will produce between 30 and 40 horsepower.

The mill wheel is 15 feet high and the fall of water from the point where it is fed into the wheel and the level of Paint Creek is 13 feet. The dam for the mill is situated a half mile up the mill stream from the wheel. There is no mill pond.

Many of the original timbers have been salvaged from the old mill and are built into the present structure, including the corner supports for a number of 12"x13" beams fifty feet in length which are used to support the crosswise beams in the dining room.

The history of the mill goes back to when Needham Hemingway came here from the east and discovered waterpower possibilities in the Paint Creek.

The supply of water was generous enough that no mill pond was required. Needham simply built a long mill race through which the creek's waters have since rushed their way to the water wheel. The mill wheel was geared to two runs of stones which ground much of the county's wheat into flour vital to food supply of the early settlers. The original frame building measured 36 x 56 feet.

The mill passed through various ownerships, including that of William Goodison who built an addition in 1876.

The railroad came through in 1872. The Post Office was established in 1847 and the Detroit and Flint car line was built past the old mill around the turn of the century. Through it the old mill ground on turning out flour for about 100 years.

For a good part of this century the mill was owned by Morris Collins, father-in-law of Frank Voll, Sr., Oakland Township Supervisor, and the uncle of Stowell Collins, Rochester village councilman.

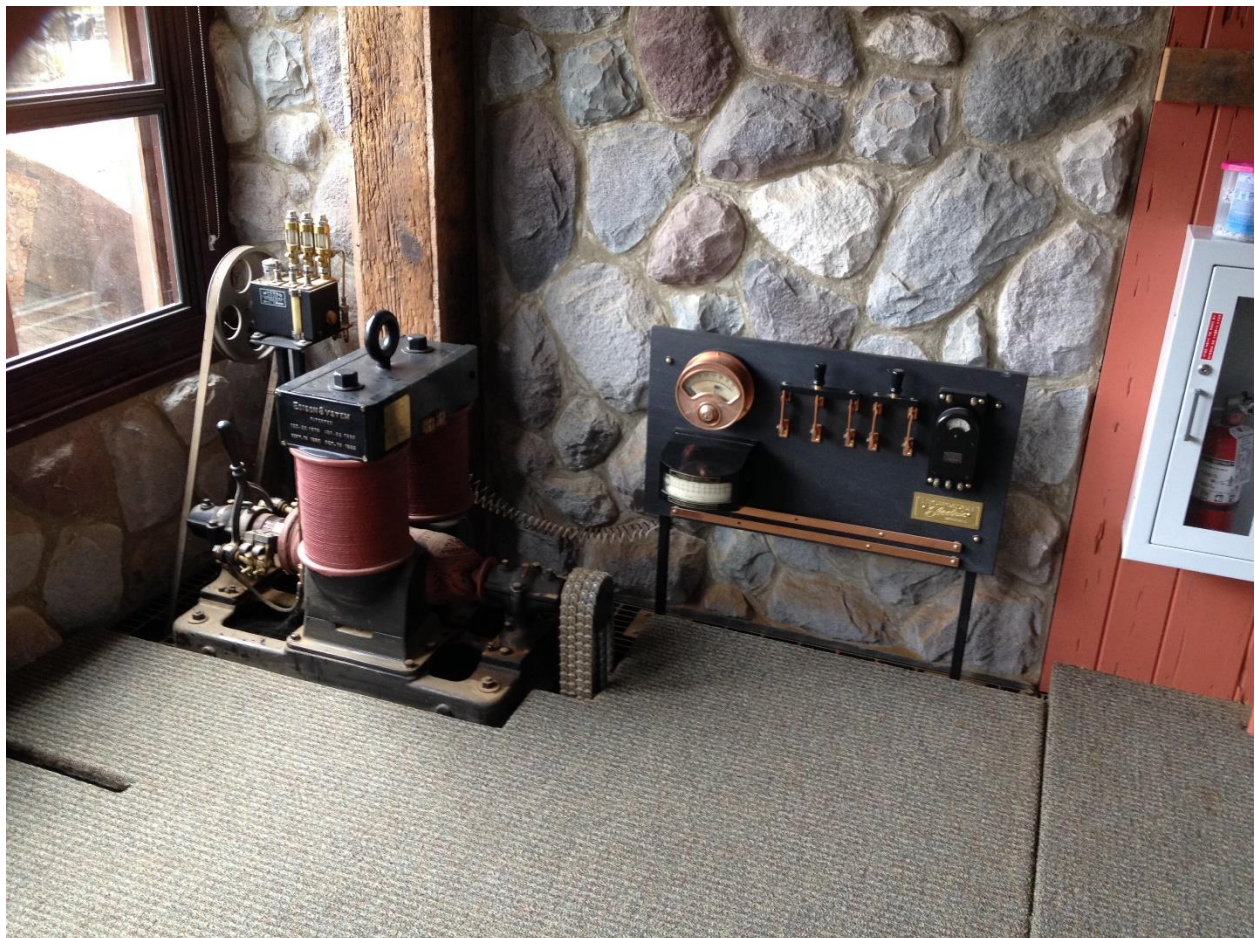
The operation of the mill was finally discontinued, but the building and the box flume which fed water to the wheel were left standing, although in dilapidated condition when the property was sold to Dale O. Miller, Sr.

Miller at first used the building for storage, but soon began planning restoration and rebuilding of the old mill, a plan which he first outlined publicly in 1945, but which is just now after a number of alterations, coming to fruition.

Dale Miller, as present owner of the historic mill likes to point out that his family in Germany were originally millers, at that time spelling their name in the German way, Muller, and that his son, Douglas, 8, is the fifth generation in this country.

The restoration was designed by the architectural firm of Giffells and Rossetti of Detroit and was the special project of Gino Rossetti, junior member of the firm."

(End of 1960 news article.)



Ahead to 2015 - The Edison electric generator as it now stands inside Paint Creek Mill, restored to near-pristine condition. Note drive belt coming up from below the floor.