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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Allegan County Board of Commissioners Launched History Website**

**ALLEGAN** - The Allegan County Board of Commissioners is proud to present to the public their official history webpage. Since the unveiling of the Allegan County Historical Photographic Project, a mere suggestion for a point of reference to those photographs has turned into a unique and interesting online journey into Allegan County's past.

The County's previous Facilities Management Director Brett Butler (currently Chairman of the Allegan County Building Authority), initiated the Historical Photographic Project several years ago. The intent was to decorate County buildings through the use of history and education. Rob Sarro, County Administrator explained, "The Board had a great idea to consider ways that we could keep that project alive. We were excited to recommend a technological solution that could share these photographs with the world and be easily expanded in the future."

Many were involved to make this idea a reality; the Allegan County Historical Society, Allegan County Historian John Paul, Mark Lovett of Frames Unlimited who provided the photos for this project and the framed reproductions chosen for the Photo Project, and several County employees appointed to a project team. Project team members from the Administration Department were Rob Sarro, County Administrator, Denise Wilson, Executive Assistant and Becky Blaine, Administrative Services Assistant; and from the Information Services Department, Steve Sedore, Director and Debra Harvey, Website Developer.

Chronicled by decades, the interactive website consists of over 60 old photographs that depict areas and events that occurred all around Allegan County. Commissioners received a sneak peak of a prototype by Ms. Harvey at their June 19 meeting, and Commissioners were pleased with the outcome. Commissioner Thiele commented, "This is great; it is far more than I ever anticipated." A very special thanks was expressed to Ms. Harvey whose knowledge, creative abilities and expertise on this project was invaluable.

Commissioners invite and encourage the community, other agencies and organizations to donate any old photos they would like to share to be included on our website. For more information on this or the Historical Photo Project, contact the Administration Department via contact information above.