

# People

Early Editors—an Eclectic Bunch	2
Great Open Spaces—Back in '25 [1925]	4
Forest Passes, City is Built in a Lifetime	6
F. L. Cook Holds Undisputed Title of Farmington's First 'Printer's Devil'	7
Local Man Was 1 <sup>st</sup> Civil War Recruit	8
The Eagle Farm—Historical Remnant of Days Long Past	10
Reminiscences of Early Farmington	12
Develops Fine Local Business with Determination, Hard Work	15
'Pete the TV Man' of Hills Dies at 79	17
Who is Who in Our Community	18
War and Stage Veteran at Rest	20
Nathan H. Power, Symbol of the Community Passes	21
Power Clan: Farmington Pioneers	23
Old House Built by Seeker after Life Everlasting	24
Favorite Son [F. M. Warner]	25
"The Warners of Farmington"	27
INDEX	29

# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 8

Monday, October 31, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1988 American Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Early editors – an eclectic bunch

by Jean Fox  
local historian

**EARLY EDITORS** of the Farmington Enterprise were a varied and colorful lot.

When Edgar Rollin Bloomer, an energetic young man of 33, put out Vol. 1, No.1 of the Enterprise on November 2, 1888, prominently displayed beneath the masthead was the motto: "Independent in All Things, with Justice to All." Subscriptions were \$1 per year (52 issues). A few months later, he could boast the paper was being sent to 22 states and "nearly every county in Michigan."

Bloomer nursed his fledgling paper through ten years of early issues. Mostly, these were four-page affairs, with several columns of advertising prominently displayed on page 1. The interior featured popular novels of the day, serialized.

Small-town newspapers of the late 19th century were, in effect, one-man operations. Editors had to be jacks-of-all-trades, else they could not survive. They owned the paper, lock, stock and barrel; getting it out once a week was a dedication akin to the preacher's Sunday sermon. They set the type (often by hand) in the back room of a small shop; they roamed the street for advertising. They picked up occasional job printing, to help pay the bills. They were town boosters (a good editor made it unnecessary to have a chamber of commerce; indeed, it was not until the 1920s when editors moved to second floors and isolated themselves from the public that saw the

birth of the chambers of commerce around the USA.)

Versatile they undoubtedly were; and it is doubtful any one of them ever had heard of the Renaissance Man. And such was Bloomer of the Enterprise.



**IN 1898**, he triumphantly published a Tenth Anniversary Edition on November 4, a fine affair with stories (and ads) about Farmington's prominent businessmen. The Enterprise of the 1880s and '90s was all "type" – there were no pictures. But by the tenth anniversary, some small "cuts" – line drawings engraved into metal or wood enlivened the pages. There were a few dim if foggy pictures. These were expensive, hence used sparingly.

Soon after the Tenth Anniversary Edition made its appearance, Bloomer moved to Sparta, Mich., where he bought and consolidated the Sentinel and Leader. And there, on October 9, 1909, he died. His last words were: "Are the forms made up?"

In 1901, A. E. McKinnon was editor from February until September (by 1906 he is a reporter on the Detroit Free Press). The local

weekly was acquired in 1901-02 by Harry N. McCracken, a well known township farmer with apple orchards on 12 Mile, west of Drake. McCracken had been a teacher, school superintendant in the 1890s, and a state legislator.

During his tenure, the assassination of President William McKinley closed Farmington businesses for a full day, while 100 school children followed the GAR to a Town Hall decorated with bunting and flags. One could subscribe to the Enterprise *and* the Detroit Journal, a bi-weekly, for \$1.75 a year.

**THEN FOR** nearly a year, July 1, 1904 until April 28, 1905, the Enterprise was owned and edited by Alex H. Smith, who lived on Grand River two doors down from Gov. Fred Warner. Smith was clerk for the Michigan House of Representatives; he died suddenly in 1905. How he combined editorial duties 70 miles away from Lansing is not revealed; but then, since Michigan had a really "part-time" legislature (which met from January to May only every two years) perhaps this was a not untenable task.

In 1905, Walter Richards took over; by now, the paper had a "printer's devil," a youth who helped out in the back room, or composing room. It had one linotype, a huge megalithic precursor of today's computers, which set type, one line at a time, a tremendous improvement over hand-set operations in which the printer (editor) picked up one letter at a time and pushed it onto a "stick."

Richards also had a young lady employee who read proof and "wrote up" the local society items . . . "Mr. and Mrs. Byron Pierce spent the day in Detroit with her sister . . ." This was big news in Farmington in 1905 when the interurban, which made such long trips possible, was less than a decade old. One of Richards' big concerns was the whereabouts of the Japanese fleet, a force in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-06.

**EDITORS CHANGE** often. It was grueling work, six days a week, and the only edge it offered over farming was that it was done under a roof. After four years, Richards was succeeded by Calvin D. Goss, "editor and publisher," in 1908, by Frank E. VanBlack and by C. D. Potter in 1909. Now, subscriptions were taken out in potatoes, apples, cabbage or turnips. And in 1910, Dr. J. A. Miller was offering free vaccinations during the smallpox epidemic here

By 1911, C. E. Ramsey was editor, and here a close relationship began with the Redford Record, launched in 1900 about seven miles down the Grand River Road. Ramsey ran both papers for about three years, during which time Michigan passed women's suffrage and the Bull Moose movement brought a Democratic postmaster to Farmington for the first time since the Civil War. Taft, 141, Roosevelt, 135; Wilson, 85. In Redford, Bull Moosers had a majority of 78.

Ramsey sold the paper in 1914 to J. Arch Price, "from Colorado." During this era, the Enterprise used much "boilerplate," pre-set editorial matter and serialized fiction. One icy February Friday, the roof of the newspaper building caught fire as the paper was being printed. Farmington's volunteer fire department came to the rescue, and catastrophe was averted. And the paper got out that week, natch.

In June, 1915, Willis Edwin Lord came on as editor, introduced by Price in a retirement editorial as a

man "with long experience as a newspaperman in Michigan." That's all. No what, where, when or why.

Lord bought the Enterprise building — today's Jerry's Bookstore — and made "improvements" in the paper. Lord opposed local option, and Farmington voted "wet" in the belief that liquor was good for business. But in 1916, Oakland County voted "dry"; that was also the year Pershing pursued Pancho Villa in an undefined area of the Southwest.

Two years after his arrival in town, Lord became Farmington village clerk, serving until 1919 when he was superseded by a returning war hero, Lt. Harley Warner. That fall, Lord printed the complete text of the covenant of the League of Nations, and, in German, the entire text of the German peace treaty.

Lord died unexpectedly on April 10, 1920, just six months after he had bought a "new typesetting machine which could do the work of eight rapid compositors . . . revolutionizing printing," said the editor-publisher. The entire community mourned.

For six months, his widow and son controlled the paper, while they looked around for a buyer. They were assisted by P. L. Perkins (Pete), "editor and manager" in charge of both the office and business, a tribute no doubt to his ability to get the paper off the press and out each week. (Pete also had a jazz band, locally popular.)

**THEN IN** September, 1920, Wales Martindale, a retired Detroit school superintendent who had come to Farmington to make his home, bought the Enterprise. His son George, a World War I veteran, was editor for a year until the paper came under the management of E. E. Brown on November 4, 1921. Brown owned the Northville Record and, in 1905, had controlled the Grass Lake News.

Brown employed Franklin L. Whipple, who came to the editor's

chair on March 1, 1922, when William N. and Nellie A. Miller emerged as owners and editors. The Millers had bought the paper from Brown with mortgage to Mergenthaler Linotype Co. of Chicago. Now, the editorial pages sprouted Josh Billings, a popular humorist, and Edna Ferber's "So Big," in installments.

Big issue of their tenure was the incorporation of the village of Farmington on September 14, 1925. Miller was also president of the Oakland County Press Club. When they sold the Enterprise and left Farmington in 1927, the entire community turned out for a farewell party.

Hyman Levinson followed the Millers as editor in May. Main issue during his years was a proposal for widening Grand River through the village to 100 feet. Levinson opposed this, although it would be good for business; instead, he offered a by-pass around town, which took another 40 years to attain. Fortunately for posterity, and with the aid of the Enterprise, this widening for "progress" failed, due either to an avid editor or lack of money for the "improvement."

**AND SO** they served during the first five decades of the paper's existence. Small-town editors, big men in their community.

Selling their subscriptions for whatever they could get, chasing local merchants for ads, printing whatever news came into the office, but never the really important things which happened around town.

# The Farmington Forum

May 16, 1974

## INCLUDING GLEN OAKS GOLF CLUB, BOND SCHOOL Great Open Spaces—Back in '25

By Ruth Moehlman,  
with Howard Bond

"For your home of tomorrow the location of Oaklands is ideal," declared the brochures for Oaklands, the New Suburban Community in Farmington in 1925.

Among the features offered were a new school named Bond, a private golf club called Glen Oaks, and rapid transit by way of the Detroit Urban Railway. At that time streetcars traveled on a right of way along Orchard Lake road from Pontiac to run from Detroit into Farmington. The Northwestern "super-highway" was coming "shortly," which would provide a way to reach your home by car at 50 miles an hour, provided the car could go that fast. In the meanwhile, there were paved highways from Detroit by way of Grand River to Orchard Lake road. Orchard Lake road was paved all the way from Grand River to Pontiac by 1924.

The area looks appealing even 50 years later, offering one-acre estates and showing country English-type architecture in 150 by 240 foot plots. The plots were planned out into such items as flower gardens, tennis courts, kennels, spacious lawns and-or vegetable gardens.

\* \* \*

**THE ONLY THING** that stopped the development of these lovely country estates was the Great Depression. The Great Depression was an economic imbalance where money all over the

world was re-evaluated leaving most people penniless and bankrupt. That stopped the booming era of the expanding twenties. One of the casualties of the Depression was Oaklands.

The early development had been on the Bond farm, where the first homes were built by officers of the syndicate. It was to extend west along Thirteen Mile road to include what is now Canterbury Commons. In 1931, most of the land reverted back to Isaac Bond and he turned it back into a farm. It wasn't until 1952 that houses were built again on the land.

Isaac Bond, who was involved with the Great Lakes Syndicate that started the Oaklands development was an active member of the Farmington community, contributing his energy to numerous businesses and working on many of the things which made Farmington and Oakland County a better place to live.

Bond's basic business was farming and in this he tried new and different techniques too.

\* \* \*

**HOWARD BOND**, prominent Farmington attorney and Isaac Bond's son, traced the family history. Isaac Bond was born April 4, 1876 in St. Johns, Mich., son of John S. Bond and Maria Otrej Bond.

His parents, when very young, were brought to this country by their respective parents, from England. The Bond family settled in St. Johns. The Otrej family

settled first in Illinois, later coming to Farmington township and buying a farm from Chauncey D. Wolcott.

The farm was on the present Orchard Lake road, but a section of 10 acres on Thirteen Mile road was not included in the original acres.

The original government grant was signed by President Andrew Jackson on April 4, 1833 to Lawrence VanAlstyne. Wolcott who had taken out the west side of the section, had assumed his farm on July 1, 1829. Thus, Wolcott owned the entire south half of section three and sold part of it to Isaac Otrej.

\* \* \*

**THE OTREJ HOME**, a small two-bedroom house, was built on the highest point of land on a trail that ran northwestward across the farm leading to Thirteen Mile road about one-fourth of a mile east of Farmington road. The current residence of Robert Brown, Farmington school principal, on Ardmore street is the same site as the original house.

When Isaac Otrej died in 1897, he willed his land to his daughter, Maria Otrej Bond, who, with her family, had occupied and farmed the property for several years previously. Her father had retired and spent most of his time in Illinois. Because of an illness that she had, she and her husband had lost other property and had incurred mortgage on the family farm.

An actively participating farm wife was essential to a successful farm in the late 1800s and early twentieth century.

\* \* \*

**IN 1900**, in order to assist his family, Isaac Bond assumed the

mortgage and took control of the farm. He was getting married and built a large two-story double house on Orchard Lake road, then a dirt section line road.

Isaac Bond, who had come to Farmington township when he was seven years old, had attended the German school on Middlebelt road north of Northwestern highway. One of his teachers was Andrew L. Moore, who became a well-known Pontiac attorney, and Moore had helped Bond in studying some advanced math and principles of business and law beyond the usual eighth grade education offered in Farmington at that time.

As a teenager and young man, Bond earned money as a day laborer, earning 25 cents a day and noon dinner. He worked on the Colonel Benjamin and Milton Benjamin Farms which were located where the Glen Oaks Golf Club is on Thirteen Mile road.

\* \* \*

**ISAAC BOND** was 24 when he assumed the management of the family farm and married Charlotte Wolfe, a school teacher from a prominent Livonia family.

As Isaac Bond took over the farm, he purchased additional acres and added barns and buildings until he had a large farm and dairy. He shipped his milk on the freight car on the Detroit United Railway which made his Orchard Lake road frontage an advantage.

Among other things he experimented with what was an experimental potato program in conjunction with the Michigan Agricultural College now known as Michigan State University. He grew seed potatoes and sold them as certified seed. The rural russet potato was developed on the Bond farm and other experimental farms. He also worked on fighting blight and developing a scab, resistant potato.

Another of Bond's activities was selling farm equipment.

\* \* \*

**THE BONDS HAD** four children, Mrs. Mildred Allen, of Grosse Pointe Park; Howard Bond of Farmington; Mrs. Ethel Morris of Farmington; and Dr. Floyd Bond of Ann Arbor.

While operating his farm, Bond also became involved in local politics. He became Farmington township treasurer about 1904, township supervisor from 1919-1928 and Oakland county road commissioner from 1928 to 1934. This was the time when he visualized the possibilities of travel and became involved with the ill-fated Oaklands real estate development.

He was also director of the Nichols school and served two terms as a member of the Farmington board of education.

\* \* \*

**HE WORKED TO** get telephone service to the area which came to Farmington township about 1905 and electricity about 1912. Howard Bond remembers the milking machines that were run by steam engine which generated electricity before electricity came to Farmington.

Another of Bond's projects was procuring good roads for the area.

As the supervisor of Farmington township, Isaac Bond was part of the building committees that helped build the T. B. Sanatorium, Contagious Hospital, Juvenile Home, County Jail and Cement Block Plant in Oakland county. He also helped build the farmers markets in Pontiac and in Royal Oak where people could buy directly from the farmers.

\* \* \*

**WHEN THE FARM** was returned to Isaac Bond after the Great Lakes Company failed, he went back into farming and raised cattle on the property that eventually became part of Canterbury Commons subdivision.

The loss to Bond was considerable, for many of the farm buildings had been destroyed.

Howard Bond recalls driving to get their selected calves in a 1941

Ford. The calves weighed about 50 pounds each. When they were sold for beef in the following spring, there would be over 750 pounds of prime meat.

\* \* \*

**THE FARM WAS** operated until 1955, when Isaac Bond passed away. He used to hate the houses that were on his land, according to his son, Howard.

After Isaac Bond's death, his son-in-law, Harlem Morris, built houses on the pleasant streets that were once part of the farm. Other acres were sold off piecemeal.

Reminders of the Oaklands development are the Bond School with "Isaac Bond '25" inscribed on the stone to remind one of the land that Isaac Bond donated for the school. The Glen Oaks Golf Club is a busy place even though it was never built into the exclusive club that it was intended to be.

Some of the homes in among the ranch-style homes on the acreage that was the Bond farm remind one of the country estates that were planned for that area.

# The Farmington Enterprise

Vol. XLII No. 40.

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 11, 1927

5 Cents Single Copy; \$1.50 a Year

## FOREST PASSES, CITY IS BUILT IN A LIFETIME

### Indians Roamed This Section During Boyhood of Constantine Collins

(Note - The Enterprise presents herewith a sketch of the life of Constantine Collins, pioneer of this section, who died recently. The article is by N. H. Power, Farmington's historian, and unfolds a picture of the settlement and development of Farmington as it passed before the eyes of one of Farmington's early residents.

- The Editor.)

#### By N. H. Power

In the death of Constantine Collins, which occurred July 21 at his home, Farmington lost its oldest inhabitant. He was 93 years old last April. His father and mother were among the very first pioneers, having located here in May, 1824.

His mother was the first white woman to settle in Farmington. She too, lived to a good old age, and died December 29, 1886, aged 92 years.

Mr. Collins in his long life saw many great and far-reaching changes in this vicinity. In his early boyhood the Indians from their reservation near Lansing, in making their annual trips to Detroit to collect their bounty, passed right by the door of his father's home, a log cabin which stood on Shiawassee avenue on the site now owned and occupied by George Gilde-meister.

#### Street Is Old Trail

This street is a part of the old Indian trail. Occasionally a straying number of the tribe, tired and hungry, would stop and ask for food. This was always given him by Mrs. Collins if she thought he was worthy and deserving. If he was drunk and ugly she did not hesitate to refuse and on one occasion seized the ax and drove the unwelcome guest from the place.

#### One Street In Town

The small pioneer settlement with its log stores and dwellings was located on Shiawassee Avenue west of the McGee hill. At the foot of this hill was the grist mill of Arthur Power, the dam of which can still be traced. Mr. Collins remembered well the first storekeepers, James and Mead and Henry Miller. His father also conducted a store and was the second postmaster, succeeding Dr. Webb.

The late Mr. Collins was well acquainted with Dr. Wixom and Dr. Hudson, pioneer physicians of the town.

The Collins property extended south along Division street to the Fendt road and the writer of this article well remembers seeing Mr. Collins milk his cows on land now occupied by the Town Hall.

#### Saw Forests Pass

He was well acquainted with the struggle that the pioneer waged with nature and saw the dark forests give way to the broad and fertile acres of our present day. He saw bridle paths and Indian trails succeeded by dirt roads and they in turn replaced by our present cement highways that traverse the country in every direction.

#### Helped Build Grand River

He helped construct our present Grand River avenue in 1851, and saw the transfer of the business portion of the town to its present location. He saw the ox team and the stage with their slow and tedious movement give way to the automobile. The span of his life saw greater changes and greater advancement not only in local affairs and conditions, but greater in every branch of human endeavor. Space will not permit their enumeration in this article.

#### Was A Republican

Deceased was a Republican in politics and liberal in his religious beliefs. He married Elizabeth Conroy, who died in 1900. Her death was a great loss to him, and through all the years the memory of her was a sacred and tender thing with him.

He leaves one son, Gale Collins who did all in his power to make his father's declining years happy and comfortable.

In his death our community has lost a respected pioneer, almost the last survivor of a hardy company of men and women that made our present civilization with its comforts and advantages.

# The Farmington Enterprise

## F. L. Cook Holds Undisputed Title of Farmington's First 'Printer's Devil'

"We next present a man who needs no introduction to Farmington," is the way this story might be begun by an experienced toastmaster at a banquet. Banquets are not due until next Thursday, but we do have the privilege of presenting to you now, Mr. Fred L. Cook, Farmington's first "printer's devil."

Mr. Cook admits it—is even proud of it—but it would be useless for him to deny, anyway, for the evidence in his case was obtainable elsewhere.

It ought to be said before going further that Mr. Cook knows nothing whatever about this. The man who 40 years ago helped print the first paper in Farmington will, we hope and believe be more surprised than any other reader to find in his copy of the paper this week our section devoted to the Enterprise's fortieth birthday—and his own picture on this front page.

True, Mr. Cook did help us immensely. A year ago last summer he showed the Editor his copy of the first issue, carefully kept in the big safe in his store for many years. A number of weeks ago, he consented to loan it to us, and with it a copy of an issue six years later, containing the review of Farmington business at that time, which has been made part of the anniversary section.

Mr. Cook's part in the production of the first paper is interestingly described by Mrs. Helen Bloomer Fifield, who, as daughter of the publisher, ought to know.

Those who doubt that Mr. Cook could have been old enough 40 years ago to help with the paper are assured that Mr. Cook was very, very young indeed.

He's still young, as accompanying picture shows. Even that's a secret too, for Mrs. Cook handed it to us with a solemn promise not to tell her husband. And "Bob" took a similar vow.

We trust that both have kept their word.

# Farmington Observer

Volume 87 Number 71

Thursday, June 12, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

\$2 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## Local man was 1<sup>st</sup> Civil War recruit

By Ross Jacobs  
N. Farmington High School Senior  
Special writer

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, the flag of the United States of America was under siege. Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, S.C., was being attacked by the Confederate States of America.

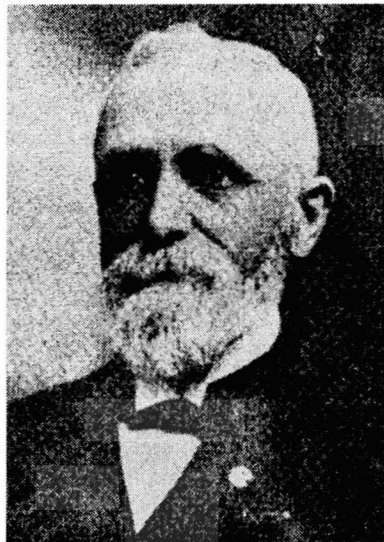
The president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, requested that the governor of each state gather volunteers to put down the rebellion. Michigan's governor, Austin Blair, issued a proclamation on April 16, 1861, to organize the raising of four regiments for this service.

Patriotic young men all over the state flocked to enlist in the First Michigan Infantry Regiment. One of these brave, young men was 20-year old Andrew J. Crosby Jr. of Farmington Township.

Crosby was an assistant teacher at the Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Detroit, his alma mater. He and his friends heard of the governor's proclamation and rushed to the enlistment office of the Detroit Light Guard. This young man from Farmington became the first Michigan soldier to enlist in the Civil War

**MICHIGAN'S ADJUTANT** general selected 10 companies to serve in the First Michigan Infantry Regiment. Membership in these first companies was a highly valued position. Andrew J. Crosby was always very proud that he was the first private, in the first company of the first regiment from Michigan.

Andrew J. Crosby Jr. was born in DeRuyter Township, Madison County, New York, on Sept. 9, 1840. He was the first of two sons born to Andrew J. Crosby Sr. and Lurania W. Miles, both natives of New York.



Andrew Crosby

The family lived in New York until Andrew was 4, at which time they moved to "an unbroken tract of land in the heavily timbered region" (today's Livonia). While in Livonia, Crosby attended the district school in Wayne County.

When he was 15, the family sold its land and moved to an improved farm in Farmington Township, where he attended Farmington Township's district school. His education also included a course from the State Normal School in Ypsilanti and classes at Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Detroit. Upon graduation, he took the position of assistant teacher.

Each of the 10 companies of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment h

had its own uniform. These were discarded for a regimental uniform. This uniform consisted of "gray petershams for overcoats, navy blue for coats, and navy flannel for pants. The headgear was the familiar kepi or forage cap." Andrew Crosby and the Detroit Light Guard were armed with the Model 1855 Springfield Rifle Muskets.

**THE REGIMENTS'S** organization was completed on April 29. Col. Orlando B. Wilcox, a popular Detroit lawyer and graduate of West Point, was given the position commanding officer. On May 1, 1861, Andrew J. Crosby Jr. and his 797 fellow soldiers were mustered into the service of the United States for three months.

Before they were mustered into service, they were given a chance to resign. Few exercised this privilege, although it would have been most profitable. There were many applicants willing to pay for a place in this regiment. One man, John Stephen, went to the fort with his son Billy and offered to pay \$300 in gold to the man from Company A who would resign and give Billy his place.

The regiment arrived in Washington, D.C., at 10 p.m. on May 16. Their arrival was at a crucial time. Rebel flags were sighted from time to time across the Potomac on Arlington Heights. The loyal citizens of Washington were worried that there were not enough loyal Union troops to hold against a Confederate attack.

With the arrival of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment, these

Farmington Observer, 06-12-1986



people breathed a sigh of relief. President Lincoln remarked, "Thank God for Michigan."

**COL. WILCOX** led the advance of the Grand Army into Virginia. Andrew J. Crosby Jr. and the First Michigan Infantry Regiment were at the front as the army passed over the Long Bridge into Virginia.

This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. They captured a troop of Confederate cavalry and immediately took possession of the railroad depot. At the same time, Col. Elmer Ellsworth and his New York Fire Zouaves entered Alexandria by steamer. During the capturing of Alexandria, Col. Ellsworth was shot and killed. Andrew Crosby had the opportunity to view the body of the famed Ellsworth after his death.

Shortly after the capture of Alexandria, toward the end of May, Andrew Crosby became sick. He suffered greatly from the effects of diarrhea, dysentery and pleurisy. Many times, he wrote home requesting blackberry cordial to help ease the effects of the dysentery.

According to Nelson M. Farrar, a fellow member of the Detroit Light Guard, "Andrew J. Crosby Jr. in the latter part of May 1861 was sick and sent to the hospital for about two weeks, he continued to suffer from diarrhea after he came back to the company and he was not assigned to duty but was very weak and sick."

**ON JULY 21**, 1861, the First Michigan Infantry Regiment fought in the battle of Bull Run (Manassas). It is likely that Andrew Crosby was hospitalized at this time and did not participate. His regiment, however fought gallantly.

Soon after their defeat at Bull Run, the regiment and Crosby returned to Detroit and were mustered out of service on Aug. 7, 1861. Many of the men chose to remain in the service. Andrew

Crosby, suffering from the effects of disease, did not rejoin.

Andrew J. Crosby Jr. returned to Farmington to help on his parents' farm. He was not much help due to the effects of the diseases he had contracted during the war.

On Dec. 31, 1862, Crosby married Mary B. Smith of Novi. For one year, the couple lived at the old Crosby homestead in Farmington. In the spring of 1864, they moved to St. Johns, Clinton County. Crosby began teaching school and became of member of the Masonic fraternity.

After seven years in St. Johns, he taught for 2½ years in Lyons, Ionia County. They then moved to the farm where Mrs. Crosby was born. They remained on the farm, with the exception of two years in Pontiac where Andrew Crosby engaged in the mercantile business.

**THE CROSBYS** had three children. The eldest was Bertha I., born June 21, 1872. She later married Frank N. Steele. The next child was Flora N., born Jan. 18, 1879. She later married a man named Brannack and had one child, Jack. The third child, an infant, Lena A. died when quite young. The family attended the Universalist Church in Farmington (now located on Halsted Road).

Andrew J. Crosby Jr. became a prominent citizen in his later years. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and belonged to Farmington Lodge, No. 151. In 1899, he served as a master. He took a great interest in politics and affiliated with the Republican Party. He was a lecturer for the State Grange of Michigan and held all the offices in the organization.

On Nov. 9, 1909, Andrew Crosby died. He and Gov. Fred Warner were standing talking on the main corner in Farmington. Crosby lit his cigar and fell to the ground. The cause of death was recorded as apoplexy. He was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery

amongst many other honorable Farmington citizens.

# The Farmington Forum

April 11, 1974

## The Eagle Farm – Historical Remnant of Days Long Past

BY RUTH MOEHLMAN

Standing on the south side of Fourteen Mile road, west of Middlebelt road, are the remaining buildings of the Eagle farm.

The farmhouse was built circa 1890. It has the original frame construction and is built with hand-hewed beams over a cobblestone basement. The original section of the house is nearest Fourteen Mile road and a passer-by can see where the section to the south was added to meet the needs of the family.

The house did not have central heating while the Eagles owned it and the entire inside is new. Two barns still stand on the property. Many Farmington farmers were milk producers and one cow barn with its old cooler still stands – the other was demolished and the hand-hewed beams are now part of the addition to the Vineyards restaurant in Southfield.

\*\*\*

**THE STONE HORSE** barn built with native stone, still stands on the two acres that are left of the farm. Across the street from the horse barn is the Eagle school of Farmington, built on the land that Ward Eagle, the last of the Farmington Eagle family once farmed.

The original 80 acres of the Eagle farm were bought by Samuel T. Bryan from the United States Government in October of 1826, when the first settlers lured to the Michigan wilderness by the rich relatively inexpensive land were arriving from the east.

They travelled from New York on the Erie Canal and took a steam vessel to Detroit. Then they would travel north on Woodward avenue to the town known as Hamilton (now Birmingham) then on to the Farmington area by way of Maple road.

\*\*\*

**THE ORIGINAL** house was built by Bryan at the southwest intersection of Fourteen Mile road and Middlebelt. That house stood until after 1908.

After the Bryans, Cyrus Hosner owned the farm. In 1889, George Eagle came to Farmington.

The Eagles were early settlers of Oakland county. Solomon Eagle purchased land in West Bloomfield April 15, 1837, when Martin Van Buren was president of the United States and Michigan was a new state. His son, Robert George, was born in 1869. George Eagle married Isabella Cotcher. Zaida, a daughter was born in 1886.

\*\*\*

**AFTER PURCHASING** the land in Farmington in 1889, the Eagles travelled to Missouri returning to Michigan where a new farmhouse was erected and a son, Ward, was born.

Ward Eagle was a typical farm boy of the 1890's. He attended the German school on Middlebelt road and helped on the farm.

Howard Bond, a local attorney who grew up about the same time,

remembers trading labor with the Eagles and what a 'very clean farm' they ran. The Bond farm was on Thirteen Mile road and Orchard Lake and the Bond school now stands on part of the farm.

\*\*\*

**WHEN WARD EAGLE** was old enough to attend high school he walked to the United Detroit Railway which ran down what eventually became Orchard Lake road and traveled to Pontiac high school for his education. When he finished high school he took the county qualifying and taught school

He didn't teach school long and went into full time farming, acquiring the Irish farm in West Bloomfield where the Eagle school now stands. The Eagles ran both farms.

Zaida Eagle taught school in various Farmington district schools until she retired. She taught at the German school and the Nichols school.

\*\*\*

**WARD EAGLE** became active in community affairs and became a member of the Michigan Milk Producers association in 1917. Working with Norman Peterson. Ward Eagle traveled around the state persuading the farmers to join the cooperative for cooperative marketing, testing and grading of the milk.

During the Depression Ward Eagle almost lost the West Bloomfield 17 acres but managed to scrape through by selling apples and milking cows, according to Peterson.

Eagle also served on the Farmington township Board and

was a Justice of the Peace from 1930-1940. He served as Township Supervisor in 1956. He is remembered as a very intelligent, well-read man who helped many young people in the community.

Eagle was among the group of farmers who visited Russia. He did a great deal of traveling, but neither Ward Eagle or his sister, Zaida, married. Eagle died in 1967.

The two remaining acres of the Eagle Farm are now owned by Emily Brown, of West Bloomfield, and subdivisions occupy other areas.

# The Farmington Forum

December 18 & 25, 1986

## Reminiscences Of Early Farmington

"Reminiscences of Early Farmington" by Orene Habelmehl, won top honors in the 1986 Lee S. Peel Historical Research contest.

The following is written as told to Clare Carvell, read and approved by Orene Habelmehl.

### Beginnings

John Habelmehl came to Michigan in the early 1890's, first to Northville, back to Canada and back again to Farmington, earning his way by plying his trade as a stone mason. When he was ready to purchase a house, he hired a livery to get to Pontiac where he purchased a tax title to property in Farmington. He located a house on Grand River (opposite the present Thayer property).

He lived there a short time after which he returned to Pontiac in 1894 and bought the tax title to a small house on Shiawassee. This house was located on the south side of Shiawassee, the second parcel west of Farmington Road.

This house consisted of a main room, two pantries (one for winter storage, the other for clothes) and a kitchen at the back. Into the loft the floorboards were 18" wide and very loose. These were fastened with pegs. (These boards were later used for floors on the back porch of the "new" house. It was in this loft that the rocking chair and rope basket, still in the present home were found).

For several years John "batched it" until receiving a message that his father had been killed by a runaway team of horses in Ontario, he returned there for the funeral.

While there he met Louise Prast. They made arrangements that she should come to Michigan and be married in May of 1896.

John scrubbed the rough board floors in the kitchen with lye and a scrub-brush to make the house presentable. He had bought some furniture at auctions (a bed and chairs).

When John went to pick up Louise, he drove over a plank road to Detroit. It took one whole day to get there. She came from Ontario on a train to meet him and they were married in Detroit by a strange minister. They stayed in Detroit that night. The next whole day was taken to get back to Farmington.

More furniture was added after Louise came. They travelled to Northville and purchased a wagon load of furniture including a dresser, side board, a fancy dining table and a rocking chair. Also purchased was a large carpet for the big room which was laid over straw for padding and insulation.

Other articles used by the Habelmehl's in this first home were: table dishes, a frying pan, a sand-iron with removable handles, a beautiful wall clock, several kerosene lamps (one with a brass base), one porcelain white lamp with green leaves on the globe and purchased from D. K. Smith.

It was in this first home that Orene and her brother, Charles Addison, were born. Esse Grantham was the mid-wife assisting Dr. Moore (Grandfather of Murray and Margaret Moore). During the time the family lived there it was a common occurrence to see cows, chickens and pigs in the road which

was really a path and is now Shiawassee Road.

Here and there would be a board sidewalk and Orene remembers that she would pass only two houses on her way to school down Shiawassee. Orene also remembers seeing Grandpa Pettibone and his sons walking by on their way to their farm with an old fashioned shoulder-yoke carrying full pails of milk back to his house on Shiawassee and Grand River.

### The New House

In about 1903, John Habelmehl built the existing home located at 33431 Shiawassee, two lots from where the former home stood. The surveying was done by Mr. Thayer and measured in chains. As he was a master stone mason, he built the foundation 18" thick, each stone cut by him and pointed. It is still a fine example of his craftsmanship.

The family moved into the home and remained there until the death of John in 1906. John Habelmehl was a hard working man. In the summer he worked as a stone mason. He and John Mahaney (father of Henry) worked on the construction of Salem Church as one of his projects. In the winter, or in slow times, he cut ice at the Schroeder farm (in the Hollow), now known as Muirwood.

He would build fires to keep warm. He also sold fish which he caught ice fishing and kept in a huge icebox at his home. He owned a big barn which he moved up from the old Shaupeter Place on Grand River and School Street (the present location of Executive Office Supply). This barn was used for slaughtering young calves in

the winter. He was helped by Herman Schroeder.

Pete Osmus, a hired man, drove a team of horses and worked for John. Osmus lived where Meyer Florist now stands. While driving the team and wagon and being intoxicated, the horses bolted and he was thrown out, having both of his legs amputated. He died as a result of this accident and was quite a loss to his family and the Habermehl's.

An added misfortune to the family six weeks later was the death of their cow which Pete and the Habermehls had cared for.

With the death of John Habermehl in 1906, his wife, Louise Prast Habermehl was left with their two small children, Orene and Charles Addison, now called "Jack." In spite of advice to sell the property, Louise decided to move her family back to the original house and rent the "new" house.

She used the \$8.00 per month to raise her family, supplementing that income by washing dishes at the Owen House and doing laundry for transients, picked up one day, washed, ironed and neatly wrapped in newspaper packages and returned at twenty-five cents per package. All this in spite of the fact that all the hard water had to be carried from nearby wells (John had drilled three wells but none proved productive, although one was used for a cistern).

A young woman who was a representative for Grinnels persuaded Mrs. Habermehl to get a prospective piano customer for her. Mrs. Habermehl recommended Emma Schroeder. For this service she received \$5.00 which she used as a down-payment on an organ (price of \$75.00).

This organ was paid for by saving 5 cents out of each laundry done. Later this organ was sold and a second-hand piano (still in the Habermehl home) was purchased for \$100.00. On this piano Orene learned to play hymns.

Lavilla Adams was the teacher and came to the home.

Orene has many memories of the Methodist Church. When the Baptist Church was closed because of lack of interest a Minister was shared with Northville. When the Methodist Church burned, the Methodists rented the Baptist Church.

Orene sang in the Methodist choir and well remembers Mrs. Anna Cook and Ida Nelson as warm friendly women. The little dishes were a Christmas gift to Orene from Ida Nelson who was her Sunday School teacher. Eva Pettibone's mother was another who was very friendly.

After Orene's graduation from Farmington High School in 1916, the family moved back into the "new" house where Orene now resides. The "old" house was rented for \$20.00 a month for a short time before being demolished.

#### **Munger and Barn**

After the new house had been built, John had the barn moved from the original location where Executive Supply now stands on Grand River and School Street to the Habermehl property on Shiawassee behind the New House. It was a large barn – large enough to hold 10 cars. It was here he kept his horse.

Following the death of John Habermehl, Mrs. Habermehl rented the barn to a man by the name of Mr. Munger for \$16.00 a month. Mr. Munger and his family lived down town in the D. K. Smith building on Grand River where the Art Alcove and the Pelican Shop are now located. He used the barn as a Cooper Shop and storage for furniture, iron and numerous items to be repaired.

Mrs. Munger worked for the town undertaker, Gus Neundorf, who was also a good repairman when he was in the mood. His hearse was a beauty with long, black plumes on each corner. On Armistice Day he drove his hearse over town to celebrate, finally

burning the Kaiser in effigy. The noise was so great that Orene ran home and hid under the bed. It was a day to remember.

*This is the continuation of the article that was printed last week.*

When Mr. Neundorf died, Mrs. Munger inherited his household goods and was to dispose of the funeral items. Some of the latter were brought to the barn including buggies, hearses, picture frames, shrouds, and dresses. Dental chairs and sofas to be repaired were also stored there. Among the clothes was a swallow tail coat which Mr. Munger fancied and from then on he would wear it around town creating quite a sight.

In the meantime, the Mungers had moved into a small house on Grace Street (behind the Auten House next to the Habermehl's on Shiawassee). The rear of the Munger house overlooked the Habermehl's large garden. Mrs. Habermehl, Orene and Jack raised 40 bushels of potatoes on the back of the two lots.

One day Mrs. Habermehl noticed Mr. Munger going into the potato patch scavenging potatoes and hiding them in the pockets of his swallow tail coat. When Mrs. Habermehl asked him what he was going to do with the potatoes he said he didn't take any potatoes. "Then what do you have in the pockets of the tail coat?" she said.

Since the Mungers were so far behind in paying the rent, the Law was summoned to put them out. To pay the back rent, there was a sale of the contents of the barn, including a hard coal stove. The caskets and hearse were already gone.

The sale signs were put up listing the contents of the barn. Just before the sale, Mrs. Habermehl saw from her window Mr. Munger pulling a top buggy by the shafts from their house down Grace Street to Shiawassee and on to the old house where the sale was to be. He

also brought another buggy in the same way.

When the day of the sale arrived there were tools (hammers and saws and such), old iron and cooper supplies to be sold but only one person came to the sale-- Henry Trombley, "and he didn't buy anything." Unfortunately some of the furniture to be sold had been stolen. The broken furniture left was sold to the rag man for a few cents. An ice box was thrown off McGee Hill.

Some of the historical pieces to be seen in this residence are:

\* A small rocking chair, which was obtained by saving tickets given when groceries were purchased. These tickets came in denominations of 5 cents, 10 cents, etc. When the value of \$25-30 were reached then the article was claimed.

\* A set of Miniature Pressed Glass Dishes including a covered butter dish, creamer, sugar, and spoon holder now 75 years old. These were a gift to Orene from Ida Nelson, her Methodist Sunday School teacher. The Nelson sisters ran a Bakery and Ice Cream Shop located where the Tool Shop now stands on Grand River across from the Masonic Hall.

These sisters built a new house beside the bakery which they wanted to leave to the town for a library. However the house was considered too small so eventually it was taken down and the Tool Factory was built

\* Clock – In 1896 when Mr. and Mrs. John Habermehl came to Farmington they purchased this clock at the local Cooper Shop (an all purpose shop) operated by D. K. Smith.

\*Rope Basket – (1864) was found in the loft of the original home. It is made of woven rope and shellacked. The handle is fastened securely.

The child's Rocking Chair was also found in the loft of the house when the Habermehl's moved in. The chair has the original finish and fabric.

\* Glass Dish – belonged to a Mrs. Neundorf and was inherited by Mrs. Munger and then left in the old Habermehl barn

# The Farmington Enterprise

1888

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township

1963

75th ANNIVERSARY

SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR—No. 7

TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1963

## Starts with Little

## Develops Fine Local Business With Determination, Hard Work

Any young man who wants to reassure himself that a will to succeed plus a lot of hard work can pay off in the long climb up the ladder to success need only hear the story of Joe Himmelspach's life.

Himmelspach came to America from the old country at the age of 19 with exactly \$23.50 in his pocket and unable to speak a word of English. The requirement for foreign borns to gain admittance to this country at that time was that they have at least \$20 to get a start with.

An industrious young man, Himmelspach worked hard and studied hard during his first years in America and by 1917 had saved up enough money to buy about five acres of farmland in the Middlebelt Road-Grand River Ave. area.

**FROM 1918** until the early part of 1920 Himmelspach worked for the Detroit-Urban Railway (D.U.R.) but had always longed for a business of his own and in the latter part of 1920 purchased the milk route which John W. Lathrup on Gill Road had been operating.

Taking over the business officially on January 1, 1921 his customers took a total of 80 quarts and 15 pints of milk from him daily. Himmelspach and his wife

developed the business rapidly after taking over and by 1923 were in need of larger quarters. Joe, therefore leased the building just west of where the City Hall was formerly located on Grand River Avenue and started an extensive remodeling job single handed to make the building usable for his milk processing operations.



JOSEPH HIMMELSPACH

**HE AND HIS** wife operated the business from that building for the next ten years. Around 1932, Himmelspach optimistically saw the possibilities of future expansion of his business even though the country was in the midst of a depression at that time.

Having an opportunity to obtain the D.U.R. building which had been used as a waiting room area and freight building at the site of his present establishment, Himmelspach did so and shortly afterward

began remodeling work as rapidly as funds were available.

It was a 40 x 50 foot building which Himmelspach bought and in very poor condition. The building which now contains both the dairy plant and a restaurant is 80 x 146 feet in size and a very attractive looking business in the downtown business district.

**BY THE LATE** 1930's Himmelspach had expanded his business operations to the point where he was processing and distributing over 600 quarts of milk daily. Through good planning and hard work the dairy products business continued to grow and expansions and improvements were made again and again.

Today, the dairy plant has the capacity to process for delivery approximately 800 gallons of milk per hour.

It was in 1953 that the restaurant business was added to Himmelspach's business operations. The attractive lunch room and dining room at the front portion of the dairy plant is one of the favorite eating places in this area not only for local people but also for others from far or near who happen to be passing through Farmington.

**STARTING** with practically nothing in 1921, Joseph Himmelspach in the past 42 years has developed one of Farmington's finest business operations. Throughout the years he has emphasized quality in both the dairy products he sells and the foods sold from his restaurant operation.

The Farmington Observer, 11-07-1963

His services to Farmington as a community leader in past years are too numerous to relate here.



# Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 29

Thursday, January 14, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

88 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## 'Pete the TV Man' of Hills dies at 79

By Bob Sklarir  
Staff writer

Wellington "Pete" Hullm, who received a Farmington Hills Historical Commission plaque honoring local families living on land settled by their ancestors more than 100 years ago, died Jan. 7 at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

A member of Farmington Township's first black family, Hullm, remembered as the beloved operator of Pete's TV & Repair Service, was 79.

"Known as Pete the TV Man, he was very friendly and widely respected," said family friend and Farmington High schoolmate Kay Briggs, Farmington Hills Historical Commission chairwoman.

Hullm lived on Freedom Acres, the family's five-acre farmsite on 11 Mile, near Orchard Lake Road, since 1914. That's when he, then 5, moved from Detroit's old Hastings neighborhood to the country to be raised by his great-aunt, Mary Wilson.

The country household included Hullm's cousin, Claude, a Detroit United Railway (DUR) worker who went on to become Oakland County's first black deputy sheriff, and his maternal great-grandparents, Ellen and Aaron Wilson.

The Wilsons were ex-slaves who fled to Michigan twice from their Freemont, Va., owner before and during the Civil War. After their first bid for freedom in the 1850s, the Wilsons were tracked and recaptured under the Fugitive Slave

Act. Fleeing a second time in 1863, they went to Canada before coming to Farmington Township, where the "people had been so friendly."



1982 PHOTO

**HULLM REBUILT** his Freedom Acres house from the original 1870 farmhouse.

"There was no resentment, not at all," Hullm said in a 1982 interview when asked if his family suffered repercussions from being the only local black family. "They helped the slaves out here."

One neighbor belonged to the Ku Klux Klan and wanted the family to move. But a township official ordered the Klansman to leave them alone, Hullm said.

Briggs remembers Hullm telling about the time "when, as a little boy, he and his great-grandmother, Ellen would walk on 11 Mile to visit Mrs. Esch, who was living in the house that formerly was the Philbrick Tavern.

"He didn't know at the time that the tavern apparently was one of the places his great-grandmother

had gone through on the Underground Railroad to freedom."

In the same 1982 interview, Hullm remembered when Freedom Acres was ripe for planting strawberries and trapping mink.

**ALTHOUGH NOT** a historical commission member, Hullm enjoyed local history. He had an old key that DUR conductors once used to open street-car power stations. He also had one of the last bottles of wine made by the old LaSalle Winery of Farmington.

In 1928, Hullm graduated from Farmington High, where he played football and ran track. "He was a popular kid," Briggs said. "The only time when he ran into racial problems was when we played other teams that didn't like him because he was black."

She also said he couldn't visit Washington, D.C., as a member of his senior class "because of the Jim Crow rules at the time."

While still in high school, Hullm started to repair radios. Later, he branched out to refrigeration units and TV sets. For many years, he made house calls.

Electricity fascinated him. As a boy, he went to the nearby DUR station to watch power transformed along the lines to make the street cars run.

An Army veteran from World War II, Hullm was part of an all-black signal corps sent to India. He also was a Disabled American Veterans member.

Survivors include two daughters, Adrian Hullm-Stanford and Tracey W. Hullm; one son, Dwight C. Hullm; and two grandchildren. His wife, Helen, died in 1978.

# The Farmington Enterprise

VOL. XXXVI No. 21.

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1922.

5 Cents Single Copy. \$1.50 A YEAR.

## WHO IS WHO IN OUR COMMUNITY

First in a Series of Sketches of  
Residents of Farmington and  
Vicinity.

John Power, the subject of this sketch, was born in January, 1844 on as he says, E. ½ of Sec. 27-1-9. His education, a small amount, was secured in the public or common schools. He "graduated" and entered the general store, known as the old stone store as clerk for Haze and Green where he drew the princely sum of \$5.00 per month as salary.

In July 1863, saying nothing to indicate his plans, he went to New York City, where he witnessed the attack of the "plug-uglies on the Tribune building and the burning of the Negro Orphans' asylums.

Here he shipped in the U.S. navy and was sent on board the receiving ship, North Carolina, lying at Cob dock in the Brooklyn navy yard. The North Carolina was a terrible old tub with four decks pierced for 112 guns and grounded on her own coffee grounds and beef bones. After a period a three weeks he was sent with a draft of 300 landsmen to join the West Gulf squadron headquarters of New Orleans, and assigned for duty on board the flagship, Pensacola, in the river off New Orleans. In September he reported at sick call and the ship's surgeon ordered him sent to the marine hospital with symptoms of yellow fever. He recovered in a few days and was detailed as hospital steward for three months in charge of the yellow fever ward,

administering medicines and otherwise caring for sick sailors and saw many of the bluejackets die of yellow fever or black vomit as the Spanish called it. It was usually fatal in 24 hours. The dead were put in rough pine boxes and taken to the cemetery, out Shell Road, and buried in graves three feet deep which immediately filled with water. Sometimes it was necessary to hold the coffins down with a rail until the grave could be filled and in many instances the coffins touched each other they were so close together.

He was finally relieved from hospital duty and returned to the Pensacola and was excused from other duties and pulled in Commodore Bell's gig crew, Bell being in command of the fleet at that time.

The Pensacola was ordered north and Powers, with others was ordered to report for duty on board the Monongahela which took the place of the Pensacola as flagship. Farragut was north on leave at that time. The Monongahela was ordered to join the blockading squadron off Mobile Bay. The squadron laid at anchor from three to four miles off the entrance and the steady rolling of the ships night and day made it difficult to walk the deck.

Before leaving New Orleans, Mr. Powers was appointed paymaster's steward, a responsible position, being in charge of provisions, clothing and small stores, and held the rank of ship's steward until the Monongahela went out of commission.

During the time the fleet was off the bay the squadron would cruise down to Youcatan, Galveston and Havana. Finally when everything was in readiness there was

something doing. At 6:00 a.m. August 5, 1864 the fleet was ordered to start and about 10:30 every ship of the rebel fleet was captured or destroyed. The Union's loss in killed and wounded was about 250 men.

Fort Gains surrendered in the afternoon of that day, Fort Powell was set on fire and blew up when the fire reached the magazine, the garrison escaped in the night.

Fort Morgan did not surrender until about three weeks later. Steward Power discovered one morning when he came on deck about six o'clock, there was a man on the parapet swinging what looked like a bed sheet, to and fro. In a short time the dispatch that came along within hailing distance with the old Iron Admiral (Farragut) as the sailors called him, on the upper deck with his chief officers and sang out "have surrendered over there," pointing to Fort Morgan. Mr. Powers says that was the last time he remembers seeing, as he says it, "The grand old man."

Mr. Powers went with the fleet which was ordered later to the Brooklyn Navy yards where the ships were put out of commission and the men discharged. He came home by the Grand Trunk through Canada and upon arrival opposite Port Huron newsboys with Detroit papers in mourning were crying "all about the Assassination of President Lincoln." He was away nearly two years.

Later on Mr. Powers, who had had so much adventure and excitement that he wanted more before settling down decided to go on the stage and was with various ventures of a theatrical nature in the old Detroit opera house and the Whitney opera house located upon

the site of the present post office building in Detroit., With various companies he travelled in every state in the union, visiting all the large cities and many of the smaller ones. He played every character from comedian to tragedian. He was playing in Chicago the night of the big Haymarket riot in 1886.

Eventually Mr. Powers was satisfied that he had had enough of traveling and was always looking forward to getting a home and settling down and was continually endeavoring to decide upon the place where he might be contented and feel at home. Of all the many cities and towns in the United States and Canada he had visited Salt Lake City seemed to take his fancy as being the most home like. However circumstances arose which led him to take possession of the "Old Mill" property built by his Uncle Samuel in 1847.

Since that time he has been a resident of this community and has prospered and is now "fit as a fiddle" in spite of his years and adventures, where he is held in the highest esteem by all. He has held several public offices in the township and county, such as justice of the peace, county treasurer, etc. He is one of the directors of the Peoples State Bank known as the new bank which has continued to grow and prosper ever since its establishment and has been identified with the growth and progress of Farmington.

May John Power live long and his shadow never grow less is the wish of his friends—the people of this community.

# The Farmington Enterprise

VOL. XXXVIII, No. 18.

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, MARCH, 14, 1924.

5 Cents Single Copy \$1.50 A YEAR

## WAR AND STAGE VETERAN AT REST

### John Power, Sailor, Actor and Business Man Dies at Age of 80 Years

In the death of John Power which occurred at his home here last Thursday, Farmington loses one of its oldest citizens, he having been born in Farmington township January 5, 1844. He was the son of Abram Power and a grandson of Arthur Power, one of the original settlers here. The funeral services were held from the house Sunday at 1 p.m. at which Homer Watkins, spiritualist medium of Detroit, officiated. The remains were taken to the Detroit Crematory. Groves-Walker Post, American Legion attended the funeral in a body and members of that organization acted as pall bearers.

Mr. Power is survived by his wife who was previous to her marriage, Miss Martha Hendryx of Farmington, and one son Percy J. Power of Detroit, who is associated with the legal firm of Warren, Cady, Hill and Hamblen.

Mr. Power had a somewhat remarkable career, the various activities in which he was engaged taking him over a wide range of country, giving him an extensive acquaintance and broad knowledge of men, events and places. Naturally of an observing disposition and retentive mind he gathered and stored knowledge of the stirring events of his day that in later years proved the subjects of many interesting stories and articles for magazines and newspapers.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he attempted to enlist in the military service but was prevented from doing so by his father. Later he went to New York and under the alias of John Wilcox enlisted in the naval service. He served under Admiral Farragut in the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. He was Paymaster Steward on the U.S.S. Monongahela. He was present at the battle of Mobil Bay and at the evacuations of Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war. A relic of the battle of Mobile Bay which he prized highly was a fragment of a shell he picked up from the deck of the Tennessee after the engagement. He brought it home and carefully kept it all these years.

Shortly after close of the war he became connected with a troupe of actors and followed the theatrical profession for many years. He traveled all over the United States, taking leading parts in heavy dramas and Shakespearean plays. For a time he successfully portrayed the character of Rip VanWinkle, made immortal by Joseph Jefferson. Back in the latter part of the nineteenth century the John Power Comedy Co. was a well and favorably known theatrical aggregation, of which, as the name implies, Mr. Power was the head. The company, with an extensive reperatory of popular comedies, melodramas and tragedies of the day, make long stands at the principal theatres in the cities of the country.

After retiring from the stage, Mr. Power returned to Farmington where for a time he operated a grist mill. He was engaged in various activities here and took an active interest in state, county and village

affairs. He held the offices of justice of the peace, supervisor, school trustee and served four years as county treasurer. At the time of his death he was president of the Michigan Home Mutual Insurance Co., of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties and was a director in the Peoples State Bank of Farmington which institution he helped to organize. He affiliated with the republican party and always took an interest in its affairs. He was one of the early commanders of the Farmington G.A.R. Post.

It is said that Mr. Power was the last of Michigan's naval Civil war veterans.

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NUMBER 16

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1937

5 Cents a Copy

## *Nathan H. Power, Symbol Of The Community, Passes*

One wonders how to begin. Even though one has known for years that some day there would come the regretful task of endeavoring adequately to record the passing of Farmington's tireless and irreplaceable recorder, the task is not lighter because of this knowledge nor the certainty of recent months that the day was fast approaching, to do for Nathan H. Power what he had so often done for others—review the life that has ended and properly delineate the place of that life in our community.

### **Saves Discomfort At His Funeral**

Of all community events "Nate" Power knew and in most, he took a conspicuous part. Of arrangements and plans he was first to learn, and often aided. And a remark concerning his own funeral reveals his acute feeling for arrangements and thoughtfulness for the comfort of his friends.

Services for him will not include Masonic rites, because "Nate" said he did not want "the boys" or others at the funeral to stand out in the cold for a long time and suffer discomfort and possibility of illness.

One knew not how to begin, one knows not what to say. The bare facts of any life, dates and places never tell very much. In the case of Nathan H. Power the very paucity of events to be set down only serves to emphasize the utter inadequacy of the mere recital of these things to describe his place in the life of his community.

The chronicle is simple. For the purpose of the record, Nathan H. Power, who died Tuesday, was born in Farmington October 8, 1860, the son of Ira and Mary Power. He was named after his grandfather, one of the pioneers in



NATHAN H. POWER

settling this section. The family was among the leaders of the Quaker faith who played an important part in opening up of this area, to settlement. After finishing school he taught for a short time, then joined the railway mail service, in which he remained 44 years. He was married to Zoa Hendryx, and they lived in Detroit during most of his mail service. Seventeen years ago they returned to Farmington, and two years later he retired.

He was elected Village Clerk in 1924 and continued until the village incorporated as a city, when he was elected the first Farmington City Clerk. He was re-elected each time, usually without opposition, and held the office until ill-health induced him to resign August 6, 1936.

He is survived by his son Grant, of Northville, and two grandsons, Robert G. Power of Ortonville and Dixon Riddle, of Bethlehem, Pa. A daughter, Mrs. Riddle, died some

years ago. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Heeney Funeral Home, followed by burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Thus the facts, dates and placers—and all so inadequate to indicate his place in the community life—how hopelessly inadequate is sensed at once by anyone who lived in Farmington even a short time or knew him even slightly, but could not fail to know his work and the place he held.

For he not only was a vital part of the community—not merely its historian, descendant of its pioneers—he in a very real sense became an expression and a symbol of his home community, in a way that no other did and none other ever can.

Behind he has left a priceless collection of material on the community's life, the future disposition of which is as yet unknown. But with his passing went something much more. Others may read from his collection and prepare with his data, but there will be none to breathe into it the breath of life and lend the touch of a personal and remarkable memory. Organizations as well as individuals will miss him and his contributions. Strangely enough, those who may miss most his contribution may be, not the older folks of Farmington, who knew him so well, but those newer residents whose coming to know the community, its background and its people and becoming a part of it, was so greatly facilitated by his work.

He made the history of a little community a fascinating thing. Newcomers knew of his work only want to know more about that. His

people lived here 40 years ago. He became quite a big man, down East. A lot of people here will remember him. Then, the unfailing, accurate and amazingly detailed story of the man's life and family and connections and achievements. An incident, which, though repeated hundreds of times, still left one breathless, with surprise and admiration on each occasion.

Although it must have been largely inborn, his inclination toward history and biography (he was a voluminous reader of both) may have received great impetus from an occurrence in his youth that was one of the most spectacular in the history of Farmington. This was the great fire which occurred in 1871, when he was 11 years old, and concerning which he often related dozens of striking incidents so vividly that it might have happened but yesterday. He grew up, too, in a keenly historical period and atmosphere, when the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln were fresh, personal memories for much of the country.

Returning to conclude his days in Farmington, he sunk his roots deeper into the soil of his community and that of his fathers. Like those of a great tree, his roots reached out in every direction into the community's life. And like the tree which draws through its roots nourishment from the earth, so he drew his supreme satisfaction and enjoyment in life from his close contact with everything akin to Farmington. But like the tree, he also gave greatly to that from which he received. As the tree's roots serve to bind the earth strongly together about them, so did Nathan Power, become one of the strongest forces to bind the community together and foster a community spirit – a spirit fast declining in the American scene. Thus he was truly, a very expression and symbol of Farmington.

One knew not how to begin, or what to say – and most of all one knows not how to close the effort that could not but be a poor one, in the chronicle of this life.

There should be something that would speak much in a few words. One wishes it might have been something of his own choosing. Like that on the monument of a member of his family in Oakwood Cemetery, which he often mentioned. The one that says only this: "With Farragut at Mobile Bay." Just which Power it was among Farmington's earlier citizens who chose that for his final inscription escapes memory now. That's just it. If "Nate" were still here he would know and instantly provide the entire story. One cannot complete even his obituary without feeling the need for him.

So, indeed, one knows not how to conclude. Except that one feels and knows (and may not this be the greatest tribute of all?) that "We shall not see his like again."

# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 8

Monday, October 31, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1988 Interlock Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Power clan: Farmington pioneers

By David Litogot  
local historian

**I**N 1966, Phillip Power bought the Farmington Enterprise and merged it with the Farmington *Observer*. In this transaction, the Power family "came home" again. For Phillip Power, an Ann Arbor native, is the great-great-great-great-grandson of Farmington founder Arthur Power.

In a recent interview, Philip Power, 50, said he is continuing Arthur's "startling will power and the energy to act on it." "Arthur came from New York," Phillip continued, "to break sod and begin a new community. That took courage."

Courage to break ground has been tradition in the Power family. Philip Power started out as a journalist and today runs the third largest newspaper chain in Michigan.

The Power family can trace its American heritage back to Nicolas Power, who lived in Massachusetts in the 1600s. Being related to religious rebel Roger Sherman, the family broke with tradition early. By the time Arthur was ready to move to Michigan five generations later, the Powers had already inhabited Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. Arthur would marry three times, have 13 children, and establish the first Quaker settlement in Michigan.

**NATHAN POWER**, one of Arthur's sons, continued to "break sod." He was Farmington's first school teacher, an active abolitionist, one of the 16 founders of the Republican Party in 1854, a

Michigan legislator and a diary writer. This diary, begun in 1837, shed light on life and happenings in old Farmington. Nathan, as well as some of his brothers and sisters, was also involved in the underground railroad effort. A nephew even fought in the Civil War and later became an actor and treasurer for Oakland County.

Nathan Power's grandson, Nathan Hamlin Power, or N. H., was Farmington's historian in the 1920s and '30s, writing dozens of articles for the Enterprise. This is the man that Robert Power admires the most. Robert, 73, lives in Marshall, Michigan, and is the present-day historian of the Power family. A retired Detroit and state health worker, he says that N.H. Power, "walked him along Farmington's creeks almost 70 years ago," his earliest recollection of the community. He has many original family papers, the deed to the Quaker Cemetery, and the original Power (Nathan's) diary.

**ROBERT'S COUSIN** (and Philip's father) is 83 year-old Eugene Power of Ann Arbor. Although he retired in 1970, he is still actively involved with his business and plays water polo every chance he gets. He is best remembered for founding University Microfilms in Ann Arbor. His technical skills in photocopying important British manuscripts in British archives during World War II earned him knighthood in 1977.

He, however, did not want to talk too much about himself. Instead he focused on his grandfather, also named Eugene. Grandfather Eugene went to Cuba at the turn of the

century to raise lumber and cattle. When it didn't quite work out, (the alkaline water fouled up the steam engine at the sawmill and some of the hardwood logs sank), he moved to Elk Rapids, Michigan, and was employed in iron works. He was a farmer on the side and his son, Glenn, planted one of the first cherry orchards in the state.

A newspaper publisher, a historian, a corporate leader, these present day Powers are continuing in the Power family tradition of courage, skill, innovation and history.

# Farmington Enterprise

Vol. XLII, No. 42

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 25, 1927

5 Cents Single Copy: \$1.50 a Year

## OLD HOUSE BUILT BY SEEKER AFTER LIFE EVERLASTING

### White House Moved From Holcomb Property Has Interesting History

Excavation work has been started for the new Buick garage and salesroom sales and service station on Grand River avenue, next to the D.U.R. freight office. The house which formerly stood on the property has been moved back and will be remodeled, it is understood. The new building is expected to be ready within 30 days.

The passing of the old house from Grand River avenue, where it stood for decades, is not without its due recognition. In what the editor considers one of the most interesting articles that has appeared in the Enterprise, City Clerk N. H. Power tells something of the history of the house, and of its first occupants.

#### By N.H.Power

In the Enterprise of August 11, it was announced that the property on the south side of Grand River avenue, next to the D. U. R. freight office, owned by Dr. Holcomb, is to be the site of the new Buick garage, and that the house now standing on the property would be moved away.

This house was built in the early fifty's soon after the construction of the Grand River road and was occupied by Ebenezer G. Stevens and his numerous family of boys and girls, all of whom left our city years ago and I think are

dead, with the possible exception on one girl.

#### Prominent In Affairs

They were a prominent family and were active in the social affairs of the town. Mr. Stevens was the pioneer shoe merchant of Farmington. He began making shoes in a shop built for him by Arthur Power in 1830.

This shop stood on Shiawassee street, near the site now occupied by the Baptist Church. Samuel one of the sons of Arthur Power, married Amelia Stevens.

#### Built Brick Building

Soon after 1850 Mr. Stevens built a brick store that stood near the location of the D.U.R. waiting room on Grand River avenue. This was a two-story building. In the upper one Mr. Stevens kept a force of men making boots and repairing the same. The lower story was used as a salesroom for boots and shoes.

High top boots were usually worn by men in those days and Mr. Stevens did a flourishing business.

#### Repaired Watches

With the making and selling of boots and shoes he combined the trade of repairing clocks and watches. His honest methods of dealing secured a patronage that was loyal to him through all the years of his business career.

#### Sought Secret of Life

Tall and spare in appearance and energetic in his movements, he had some peculiar ideas, one of which was that death could be forever averted by the use of electricity.

He used various devices to establish the truth of his theory but without avail and he died September 3, 1881, aged 76 years. He was buried in the Quaker Cemetery. His son Herbert, was buried by his side a few years later.

Time with it relentless force years ago took this pioneer citizen from our midst and now the house in which he and his family lived and saw life's everchanging lights and shadows must, too, give way to the demands of our restless, teeming business age.



# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 8

Monday, October 31, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1988 Farmington Observer/Observer Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Favorite Son

### Monitoring the career of an entrepreneur turned governor

by Louise Okrutsky  
staff writer

**HE** WAS a hometown boy. He was a successful businessman. Most importantly, he was a Republican.

His hometown newspaper, the Farmington Enterprise, threw itself wholeheartedly into supporting Fred M. Warner's career as governor from 1904-11.

It was the type of continued enthusiasm that, by modern standards of journalism, would be contained on the editorial page.

It was an era in which the line between editorializing and reporting was blurred. It was an era that blended sensationalism and sentimentally.

Readers savored stories about heroic women desperately trying to save their babies from burning homes by flinging them from second-story windows. Inevitably, the reports managed to include that all the while, flames licked at the mother's long skirts. An inexhaustible supply of such stories appeared weekly on Page 2.

Just as inevitably, Page 3 of the Enterprise during the Warner years in Lansing carried a serialized novella. Usually the heroine was a poor but virtuous lass who won the heart and fidelity of a millionaire. It was even better if the rich suitor made the transition from rake to respected member of society in trying to win her hand.

**DURING THESE** years the Enterprise made no bones about telling the town that Warner, a former state senator and Secretary

of State, was its biggest hero and its only governor, whose family home lives on as the Farmington Historical Museum

It describes in glowing terms that evening in July 1904 when Warner, 39, recent recipient of the Republican nomination for governor in Grand Rapids, returned home in a literal blaze of glory. "Hundreds of torches were carried and an inexhaustible supply of Roman candles kept the line a veritable blaze of glory..." enthused the Enterprise on Friday, July 8, 1904.

Throughout Warner's career in Lansing, he could rely upon the paper describing his governorship in equally warm and friendly terms.

"His splendid showing," trumpets a front-page headline on Friday, Oct 22, 1908. "Governor Warner's effective defense of Republican management and Republican legislation," the second line continues.

In one headline, the paper manages to promote the town's first citizen and the political party that its movers and shakers supported.

"It was well noted that if those who are finding fault with state expenditures would look for a moment on the other side of the state ledger, they would realize that congratulations rather than criticism are due to the recent Republican administration of our state..." the story continues.

**BY LATE** 1908, barely one month from Election Day, it appeared that Warner was in danger of losing his third bid for the statehouse. The Enterprise's



editorial page rallied to his side on Oct. 22, 1908.

"It's funny to see how eager some of the newspapers of the state that fought Gov. Warner's nomination for this third term are to climb into the Republican bandwagon. Some that were loudest are not warmly advocating Mr. Warner's election, and go so far as to say his election is certain. In that they are correct. Gov. Fred M. Warner of Farmington will be elected for the third term."

Warner rallied enough votes to barely slide into a third term, but the Enterprise overlooked that fact. On Friday, Nov. 6, 1908, the paper ran a large photo of Warner on its front page. "To be elected the governor of a great and populous state like Michigan three times in succession is certainly a remarkable record and one of which any man might feel proud..." In this, his hometown where he is so well

and so favorably known, the result is received with joy.”

In the last weeks of that year, the paper carried a fleeting glimpse of a more workaday side of Warner. Between Dec. 4-18, 1908, the paper’s tiny section devoted to classified ads “Want Liners,” featured this message: “For sale--3 well-bred Jersey cows; sow and 10 pigs—Fred M. Warner.”

**WHILE THE** paper continued to follow his exploits as third-term governor, it also chronicled his gradual preparation for a return as one of the town’s leading lights.

It continued avid support for his statewide policies. On Friday, Jan. 8, 1909, the second page ran word for word, Warner’s third annual address to the state Legislature. “The Governor explains some things to the law makers,” the headline blares. Readers immediately knew which side was lagging in its responsibility.

Warner regained a spot on the front page on Friday, March 5, 1909, with the headline: “Gov. Warner heads list. To Senate and House of Representatives of the U.S. favoring woman suffrage.”

Along with 100,000 others from Michigan, Warner signed a petition advocating giving women the right to vote. Passers of the national petition were determined to present to Congress with 1 million names favoring the cause.

In July 1909, the paper changed hands, Calvin D. Goss handed over the reigns to Frank E. VanBlack and C. D. Potter. Goss moved to Ohio, where he started his own newspaper.

**IN THE** Friday, July 9, 1909 edition, four months from the next election, it appears Warner’s public persona was slipping back into that of prosperous leading citizen.

He made the front page again, but this time it was connected with a strictly local issue. “John Power, the county treasurer, and Fred M. Warner, our three-time governor, are the school trustees whose terms expire this month.”

The following week, Warner was re-elected to the school board, gaining 31 or 35 votes cast. At the annual school board meeting, he makes the motion that the board should acquire property in town. The motion carries.

While Warner returned as a public force in local affairs, the state voted for its next governor. On Nov. 11, 1910, Chase Osborn, a Democrat gained office.

Farmington voters remained true to the Grand Old Party and cast 190 votes for the Republican opponent, Lawton Hemons. Osborn gained 117 votes in Farmington.

**AS HE** swung into private life, the Enterprise began to cover Warner’s local business activities.

On Nov. 18, 1910, it reported “the Governor wants two plats in the village of Farmington vacated. The property had been platted since 1901 but none of the plots have been sold and their owner believes they could bring a more ready sale in acreage.

After divesting himself of property, the former governor took on a new business, the Fred M. Warner Cheese Co. Short bulletins on the construction of the concern’s offices appear in the paper throughout early 1911.

By Friday, March 10, 1911, the paper’s “Here and There” column announced: “Fred M. Warner Cheese Co.’s now nicely located in their new home on Grand River Ave.”

Throughout that year, Warner is seen in the paper as a power in the community, doing his best to improve its life in various ways.

On May 19, 1911, the front-page story shows Warner giving a helping hand at a meeting of Ladies Literacy Club.

“Ex-governor Fred M. Warner, who acted as chairman, introduced Congressman Sam Smith to the audience. Being in the neighborhood, Mr. Warner had urged Mr. Smith to be present and address a few words to the congressman’s

old friends on the subject of his recent visit to the Panama Canal.”

**OBVIOUSLY, THE** adopted son of Farmington village’s first president, P.D. Warner couldn’t do much wrong in the official eyes of his community. Detractors may have privately said the town could just as well be called Warnerville. But publicly, Warner, born in Nottinghamshire, England, remained Farmington’s favorite son.

When his mother, Mrs. P.D. Warner, died, the Friday, Aug. 18, 1911 issue of the Enterprise paid her final respects on the front page. But even the occasion of his mother’s death turned into an opportunity to hold up Warner as a shining example.

“Governor Warner’s solicitous care of his parents in their extreme infirmity of their old age has been the illustration of the finest moral worth.” The Enterprise praised.

Farmington was a small farming village. Warner’s political success was the biggest thing to hit the town’s sensibilities.

And the Enterprise made sure everyone knew it.

# The Farmington Forum

November 30, 1989

## Winning Entry In The 6<sup>th</sup> Historical Contest

**"The Warners of Farmington"** was the winning entry by Mark Bennett in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Lee Peel Historical Research Contest.

"During my research on Farmington's history, I have become interested in a family called the Warners. There have been two generations of Warners that were important in business and politics, not only in Farmington but also in the State of Michigan.

"P. Dean Warner was the third child of Seth Warner and Sally Wixom Warner who came to Michigan in 1825. He attended school in Farmington through the sixth grade and then went to a private school in Northville. At the age of 15, P. Dean Warner went to Detroit to learn business methods by clerking at a store there. Then in 1845, he married Rhoda Botsford. She was from another very important family in Farmington, the Botsford family.

"In 1846 P. Dean Warner started to be interested in politics. He became Farmington Township Clerk. Then in 1845-1849 he was Deputy Postmaster at Farmington. He was Justice of the Peace in 1855 and Township Supervisor. At the same time, with his brother-in-law, Myron Botsford, he bought a general store in Farmington near the intersection of Shiawassee and the Orchard Lake Trail. Later in his life, he started a bank and was involved with insurance.

"P. Dean Warner also became involved in State Government. He was one of six representatives to

the House of Representatives in Michigan from Oakland County. He was a Senator in the Michigan Senate in 1869.

"P. Dean and Rhoda Botsford's family consisted of Mary, adopted in 1859, and Fred Maltby, adopted in 1865 when he was seven months old. In 1867 P. Dean had a large house built for his family on Grand River Avenue. It took two years to complete the building of the house.

'It was a good example of Victorian architecture. The builder and architect of the house are unknown. It was the biggest house in the village and it was the only house to have inside plumbing. It had a carriage house and enough room outside for a garden and a cow. The house was later known as the Warner Mansion and today is known as the Governor Warner Mansion.

"P. Dean Warner had an important influence on the way Fred Warner was brought up. His interest in politics and business was passed on to Fred. Fred Maltby Warner was born in Nottinghamshire, England on July 21, 1865. His mother and father came to the United States shortly after and settled in the Farmington area.

"When his father died, his mother let the Warners adopt Fred. He went to the local Farmington village schools. By the time he was fourteen, he had graduated from Farmington High School. He entered Michigan Agriculture College, which later became Michigan State University. He dropped out because he was more interested in politics than in agriculture. Fred had been a shy boy who had difficulty speaking in front of people.

"During the 1880's there was a lot of interest in bicycles in the United States. Fred became interested in bicycles and spent \$165 on a high wheel. He became interested in bicycle racing also. He made a name as a Michigan bicycle champion.

"In 1886, when he was twenty one, Fred Warner became responsible for management of the family store. He enlarged the store, adding hardware in an adjoining building.

"Two years later, Fred, at the age of twenty three started a string of cheese factories and was also interested in a brick factory and farming. During this time the family banking business prospered. When transportation improved and it was possible to ship fresh milk to the city, Fred Warner's interests changed to dairying and marketing of eggs and milk.

"In 1888 Fred Warner married Martha M. Davis. The Davis family came from Pennsylvania and settled on a farm in Michigan. During their marriage, Fred and Martha had four children: Susan Edessa, Helen Rhoda, Harley Davis, and Howard Maltby Warner.

"With such a large family, Fred and his family moved into the large family home on Grand River, and P. Dean and his wife moved to a smaller house they had built a few houses East of the Warner Mansion. The home was a gathering place for many of the neighborhood children. They loved to play the victrola and Mrs. Warner always gave the children cookies and milk.

"Fred Warner, like his father and grandfather became involved in

community activities and politics. He served as a trustee on the municipal council for nine years. He was on the Farmington School Board and was Village President. He was a State Senator from 1895 to 1898. In 1900, he became Secretary of State for Michigan and in 1904 was elected Governor of Michigan. He was reelected in 1906.

"Then again in 1908 he ran for Governor and was reelected for a surprising third term. He was the first man ever to hold three consecutive terms as Governor of Michigan.

"Some important laws were passed because of Fred Warner. While he was Secretary of State, he passed a law that terminated toll road franchising. This was called the Warner Law. While Governor, Warner worked to pass a law to start the direct primary. This gave the people the chance to vote for their candidates.

"Before this time, the legislature or State conventions nominated people for office. Fred Warner also believed that there should be equal taxation for railroads. They were not paying their share of the taxes. He thought that the railroads should not be paid for by the taxpayers but he thought that the railroad operators should pay. He set up a railroad commission.

"Some of these laws that Warner proposed were very hard to pass. For some of them, he had to call special sessions of the legislature. They, however, were very important laws and very progressive. Governor Warner had very progressive ideas.

"This is what made him so popular. Progressivism is a theory that sought to return more control of government to the people. Some of the people that brought some of these progressive ideas to his mind were Hazen Pingree, the Governor of Michigan while Warner was

Senator, Teddy Roosevelt, and LaFollette, of Wisconsin.

"In addition to his political activities, Warner was busy with his many businesses. He ran his cheese factories, his dairying business, a marketing business, his store, and was director in his father's bank.

"During his third term, his support slipped. This is because his direct primary was not popular. The legislative people did not want to give up their power. His support also slipped because he got blamed for financial problems of the state.

"After his third term as Governor of Michigan, Warner decided to run for the United States Senate. After he found out that Henry Ford was also running, Warner dropped out of the race for fear that he would lose. As it turned out, neither Warner or Ford ran.

"Fred Maltby Warner died in Florida on April 17, 1923. The State suffered a greater loss than will ever be appreciated. Fred Warner contributed a great deal to Michigan and after his death, many people wondered what they would do without him."

## Index

Adams, Lavilla	13	Crosby, Andrew J. Jr.	8
Allen, Mildred, Mrs.	5	Crosby, Andrew J. Jr.	9
Bell, Commodore	18	Crosby, Andrew J. Sr.	8
Benjamin, Colonel	5	Crosby, Bertha I.	9
Benjamin, Milton	5	Crosby, Flora N.	9
Bennett, Mark	27	Crosby, Lena A.	9
Billings, John	3	Davis, Martha M.	27
Blair, Austin	8	Detroit Light Guard	8
Bloomer, Edgar Rollin	2	Detroit Urban Railway (D.U.R.)	15
Bond School	4	Eagle, George	10
Bond, Floyd, Dr.	5	Eagle, Robert George	10
Bond, Howard	4	Eagle, Solomon	10
Bond, Howard	5	Eagle, Ward	10
Bond, Howard	10	Eagle, Ward	11
Bond, Isaac	4	Eagle, Zaida	10
Bond, Isaac	5	Eagle, Zaida	11
Bond, John S.	4	Ellsworth, Elmer, Col.	9
Bond, Maria Otrej	4	Esch, Mrs	17
Botsford, Myron	27	Farmington Lodge No.151	8
Botsford, Rhoda	27	Farragut, Admiral	18
Brannack, Jack	9	Farragut, Admiral	20
Brannack, Mr.	9	Farrar, Nelson M	9
Briggs, Kay	17	Ferber, Edna	3
Brown, E. E.	3	Fifield, Helen Bloomer	7
Brown, Emily	11	First MI Infantry Regiment	8
Brown, Robert	4	Ford, Henry	28
Bryan, Samuel T.	10	Fox, Jean	2
Bryant & Stratton's Business	8	Gildemeister, George	6
Buick Garage	24	Glen Oaks Golf Club	4
Buildings: Contagious Hosp.	5	Glen Oaks Golf Club	5
Buildings: County Jail	5	Goss, Calvin D	3
Buildings: Juvenile Home	5	Goss, Calvin D	26
Buildings: T.B. Sanatorium	5	Grantham, Esse	12
Business: Buick Garage	24	Great Lakes Syndicate	4
Business: Cement Block Plant	5	Habermehl, Charles Addison	12
Canterbury Commons	4	Habermehl, Charles Addison	
Cement Block Plant	5	"Jack"	13
Churches: Universalist Church	8	Habermehl, John	12
City Hall	15	Habermehl, John	13
Clubs: Glen Oaks Golf Club	4	Habermehl, Louise Prast	13
Clubs: Glen Oaks Golf Club	5	Habermehl, Orene	12
Collins, Constantine	6	Habermehl, Orene	13
Collins, Gale	6	Hemons, Lawton	26
Communities: Oakland	4	Hendryx, Martha	20
Conroy, Elizabeth	6	Hendryx, Zoa	21
Contagious Hospital	5	Himmelpach, Joseph "Joe"	15
Cook, Anna	13	Holcomb, Dr.	24
Cook, Fred L.	7	Hosner, Cyrus	10
Cotcher, Isabella	10	Hudson, Dr.	6
County Jail	5	Hullm, "Pete"	17
		Hullm, Dwight C.	17

Hullm, Wellington "Pete"	17	Peel, Lee S.	27
Hullm-Stanford, Adrian	17	Perkins, Pete L.	3
Jackson, Andrew, Pres.	4	Peterson, Norman	10
Jacobs, Ross	8	Pettibone, Eva	13
Jefferson, Joseph	20	Pettibone, Grandpa	12
Juvenile Home	5	Philbrick Tavern	17
Ku Klux Klan	17	Pierce, Byron, Mr. & Mrs.	2
LaFollette	28	Pierce, J. Arch	3
Lathrup, John W.	15	Pingree, Hazen	28
Levinson, Hyman	3	Potter, C. D.	3
Lincoln, Abraham	8	Potter, C. D.	26
Lincoln, President	18	Power, Abram	20
Litogot, David	23	Power, Arthur	6
Lord, Willis Edwin	3	Power, Arthur	20
Mahaney, Henry	12	Power, Arthur	23
Mahaney, John	12	Power, Arthur	24
Martindale, George	3	Power, Eugene	23
Martindale, Wales	3	Power, Glen	23
McCracken, Harry N.	2	Power, Grant	21
McKinley, William	2	Power, Ira	21
McKinnon, A. E.	2	Power, John	18
Mead, James	6	Power, John	20
Michigan Agricultural School	5	Power, John	26
Michigan Milk Producers Asso.	10	Power, Mary	21
Michigan State University	5	Power, N. H.	6
Miles, Lurania W	8	Power, N. H.	24
Miller, Henry	6	Power, Nathan	23
Miller, J. A., Dr.	3	Power, Nathan H.	21
Miller, Nellie A.	3	Power, Nathan Hamlin	23
Miller, William N.	3	Power, Nicolas	23
Moehlman, Ruth	4	Power, Percy J	20
Moehlman, Ruth	10	Power, Philip	23
Moore, Andrew L.	5	Power, Robert	23
Moore, Dr.	12	Power, Robert G.	21
Moore, Margaret	12	Power, Samuel	19
Moore, Murray	12	Power, Samuel	24
Morris, Ethel, Mrs.	5	Prast, Louise	12
Morris, Harlem	5	Ramsey, C. E.	3
Munger, Mr. and Mrs.	13	Richards, Walter	2
Munger, Mrs.	13	Riddle, Diana	21
Nelson, Ida	13	Roosevelt, Teddy	28
Neundorf, Gus	13	Schools: Bond	4
Neundorf, Mrs.	13	Schools: Bryant & Stratton's	8
Oakland Community	4	Schools: German School	5
Okrutsky, Louise	25	Schools: Michigan Agricultural	5
Old Mill	19	Schools: Michigan State Univ.	5
Osborn, Chase	26	Schools: State Normal School	8
Osmus, Pete	13	Schroeder, Emma	13
Otrey, Isaac	4	Schroeder, Herman	13
Peel, Lee S.	12	Sherman, Roger	23

Sklar, Bob	17
Smith, Alex H.	2
Smith, D. K.	12
Smith, D. K.	13
Smith, Mary B.	9
Smith, Sam	26
State Normal School	8
Steele, Frank N.	9
Stephen, Billy	8
Stephen, John	8
Stevens, Amelia	24
Stevens, Ebenezer G	24
Stevens, Herbert	24
Subdivision: Canterbury Comm.	4
T. B. Sanatorium	5
Thayer, Mr.	12
Trombley, Henry	13
Universalist Church	8
VanAlstyne, Lawrence	4
VanBlack, Frank E.	3
VanBlack, Frank E.	26
VanBuren, Martin	10
Warner, Fred	2
Warner, Fred	9
Warner, Fred M.	25
Warner, Fred M.	26
Warner, Fred Maltby	27
Warner, Fred Maltby	28
Warner, Harley Davis	27
Warner, Harley, Lt.	3
Warner, Helen Rhoda	27
Warner, Howard Maltby	27
Warner, Mary Botsford	27
Warner, P. D.	26
Warner, P. Dean	27
Warner, Sally Wixom	27
Warner, Seth	27
Warner, Susan Edessa	27
Watkins, Homer	20
Whipple, Franklin L	3
Wilcox, Orlando B., Col.	8
Wilson, Aaron	17
Wilson, Ellen	17
Wilson, Mary	17
Wixom, Dr.	6
Wolcott, Chauncey D.	4
Wolfe, Charlotte	5