

Library spotlights new history room

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

IF YOU have a question or simply an interest in Michigan history, you may find the answer in the Farmington Community Library's newly unveiled Michigan History Room.

Dedicated Saturday at the 10th anniversary of the Farmington Branch on Liberty Street, the lower-level room boasts 1,600 publications dealing with Michigan history. The library's original collection of Michigan history books filled only about a dozen shelves.

The personal donation of 800 hard-bound books and 500 softcover books by Farmington Hills Historical Commission chairwoman Kathryn Briggs doubled the size of the library's Michigan historical collection.

"I hope everybody enjoys them," said Briggs. Farmington Hills' liaison to the Michigan Sesquicentennial Committee.

An appraisal pegged the value of the October donation at \$11,000, Library Director Beverly Papai said.

"THE DONATION brought us multi-volumes and several books no longer in print. It also includes newer books. We plan to report the rarer, more significant ones to the Library of Congress," Papai said.

The donation includes books for adults as well as children, fiction as well as non-fiction. Subjects include biographies, the Great Lakes, early Detroit and the histories of many Michigan cities and towns.

It also includes the 40-volume Michigan Pioneer & Historical Collections, published by the Michigan Pioneer & Historical Society from 1874 to 1914.

Other rare works include the three-volume History of Detroit and Michigan by Silas Farmer, published during the 1880s, the Encyclopedia of Michigan, published in 1890, and the Geological Survey of Michigan, published in 1880.

Briggs, who lives on Oxford Street in the house where she grew up and which marks the site of her grandfather's 1879 farm, struck up a fondness for Michigan history more than 30 years ago.

"I JUST got interested over the years," said Briggs, a retired Farmington Public Schools elementary school teacher and special education consultant. She's now a part-time homebound teacher for Oakland Schools.

"My interest probably started when I took course at Farmington High School



Farmington Hills resident Kathryn Briggs looks over the books she donated to the Michigan History Room collection.

offered by F. Clever Bald, a University of Michigan history professor."

The seed was planted in 1924 when Farmington held its centennial. As Briggs put it: "The school children put on a pageant at the high school athletic field, which is now the city park on Silawasse. I was in that pageant. And in conjunction with that, we studied all about Farmington history."

A resident of Farmington Hills for 66 years, Briggs scoured bookstores and catalogs to build her book collection. She hopes her donation inspires the Farmington school system to introduce courses in Michigan history beyond Michigan Week.

"David Litogot teaches one course at Dunckel Middle School," Briggs said. "I thought I'd help by providing resources for students and references for others."

THE JAN. 25 library dedication also honored the Farmington Historical Society, represented by Steve Olson, and the Farmington Genealogical Society, represented by Becky Davis. Each group donated to the Michigan History Room such historical documents as tax ledgers, photographs and leather post cards.

The historical society also donated

\$2,000 to buy new shelving for the bound collection of the Farmington Observer, which acquired the Farmington Enterprise in 1967. The Observer thus goes back 97 years.

The late Robert Cook of Farmington was honored for cataloguing a complete collection of bound volumes of the newspapers. His daughter Judy, a Farmington resident, accepted an award in her father's memory.

Historic atlases and maps also can be found in the Michigan History Room.

"The room will never rival the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library. But certainly, people who may not want to go there will find many items of interest here," Papai said.

It's fitting for the Farmington Community Library to have its own Michigan History Room because "Farmington has a fine heritage of library services going back to 1881," Papai said.

ABOUT 75 people attended the afternoon dedication.

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Farmington Hills Historical Commission chairwoman Kathryn Briggs (left), Farmington councilman Arnold Campbell, Farmington Community Library trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, Lois Vagnozzi, Farmington council watcher Bill Liba and Farmington Hills councilwoman Jan Dolan (left) through a scrapbook of old Farmington Enterprise issues.



AT LEFT: Boarshead Michigan Public Theatre members Kitty Donohue (left) and Michelle Napier perform during Saturday afternoon's salute to the 10th anniversary of the Farmington Community Library's Farmington Branch on Liberty Street. The Boarshead troupe is affiliated with the Lansing Center for the Arts. The performance in Farmington took a lighthearted look at Michigan's colorful history.

Staff photos
by
Bob Sklar

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

● BOTSFORD STAFF PRESIDENT

Dr. Michael Wayne was elected president of the professional staff at Boatsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

In 1977, Wayne earned his osteopathic degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa.

He completed his internship at Boatsford in 1978 and was a resident in family practice until 1979, when he began his private practice.

Wayne is board certified in family practice and is a trainer in the residency programs for family practitioners at both Boatsford General Hospital and the Northwest Hospital in Detroit.

● RESEARCH AWARD WINNER

Harendra Gandhi of Farmington Hills was among the recipients of the 1985 Henry Ford Technological Awards, which recognize the research, product engineering and manufacturing excellence of Ford Motor Co. employees worldwide. Gandhi was part of the Systems Research Laboratory research staff, which won a joint award. He's the principal research scientist.

● MASONRY WEEK

Gov. James Blanchard declared Feb. 9-15 "Masonry Week in Michigan."

The Farmington-based Masonry Institute is the educational, technical and promotional arm of Michigan's masonry industry. Masonry materials include concrete block, brick, stone, glass block and other hand-laid materials.

In his declaration, Blanchard said: "For the 11th consecutive year, the members of Michigan's masonry industry are being recognized for their many contributions to our state and its economy. The masonry trade has been an important aspect of the success of civilization since the very early beginnings of humankind."

"Today, its function in our society is of equal importance as all trades and industries strive to utilize technological developments to improve the quality of life in our state and nation."

Masonry Institute President Joe Neussendorfer said as Michigan moves toward its 150th anniversary in 1987, "It is important to note that masonry has been the basic material used to build the state over the years."

"From our State Capitol Building to buildings new and old of every purpose all around Michigan, masonry has been our foundation for growth," he said.

● HEALTH CARE COSTS

Small businesses, like other segments of society, are concerned over the rising costs of health care. It is estimated that total national health expenditures will be as high as \$1 trillion in 1993.

According to a Small Business Administration re-

port, small businesses have initiated several measures to contain health care costs.

Some small firms have increased their employees' share of costs. Others are controlling costs by joining coalitions that can serve as mechanisms for small firms to urge policymakers, insurers and health care providers to keep costs down. Coalitions can also help employers obtain and share information.

Some small firms join an association, a local chamber of commerce or a multiple employer trust to pool health risks and thereby cut costs by spreading risks and administrative costs.

● HE'S PROMOTED

Michael Hachigian was promoted to quality control manager at Hydrallink Corp., Farmington Hills.

He now is responsible for continued development and introduction of Hydrallink's statistical process quality control techniques on both commercial and government programs.

For 30 years, Hydrallink has provided the fluid power industry with custom-designed and custom-engineered hydraulic hoses and couplings, and screw machine products.

● NAMED A VP

Clifford Gardner of Farmington Hills was named executive vice president of the Detroit Medical Center (DMC).

He was previously Interim president. The Detroit Medical Center is a holding company providing centralized planning while continuing decentralized operations at five subsidiary institutions affiliated with Wayne State University.

● HE'S ON BOARD

Gary Novak of Farmington Hills has joined the technical analyst staff at Oakland Management Services, a software consulting firm in Troy.

Novak has seven years of computer analytical experience.

● EARNS SCHOLARSHIP

Linda Scheen and Winnie Griffin of Farmington Hills have received a Wesley Berry Flowers 40th anniversary scholarship for exceptional completion of a course in professional floral design.

The course was conducted by the Professional Florists' Institute. The scholarship is sponsored by Future Corp., which holds the franchise rights to Wesley Berry Flowers.

● WELCOMES QUEST

Glen Daoust of Alpena was the first registered guest at the new Quality Inn of Farmington Hills, which opened Jan. 8.

Daoust was treated to a complimentary room for being the hotel's first guest. His room, overlooking the indoor pool, included a jacuzzi whirlpool bath. Hotel Manager John Brissette expects 65-70 percent of the new hotel's customers to be business travelers.

The Quality Inn of Farmington Hills, at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile roads, contains 160 rooms. Features include an indoor pool, a sauna and an exercise room. Guests are entitled to free use of the nearby One On One Athletic Club. Reservations can be made by calling 553-0000.

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