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Fifteen Cents

We're off!

Kickoff breakfast both solemn and funny

The Betsford Inn, the old roadhouse which has historically served travelers on Grand River, became the site of the ceremonial kickoff for Farmington's 150th birthday Friday, when nearly 150 people gathered for the sometimes funny, sometimes solemn occasion.

Philip H. Power, honorary co-chairman of the sesquicentennial and co-publisher of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, related the beginnings of Farmington, from the time the first tree fell March 8, 1824, to the present.

HE OUTLINED the changes from a small, agricultural village through

Farmington's growth as a small city of businesses, to the present-day residential suburb.

"As the city grows, its history will provide angularity," he said, predicting the continuing sense of community of the area.

"Brothers": Robert Smith and Dr. Roderick Smith came rushing in before the speeches began, sporting black pony beards.

The gag kicked off the beard-growing contest, and the removal of the beards left the pair clean-shaven for the competition.

Sesquicentennial Chairman John Anhalt listed some of the activities planned for the celebration, including the proposed Mike Wolf show: Found-

ers Day, and the hundreds of school projects planned.

THE GATHERING was saddened by the loss of Robert Briggs, the man who was responsible for getting the sesquicentennial coin produced. Briggs died Wednesday.

Paul Schreiber, the chairman of the historical society and the informal historian for the occasion was ill, and unable to attend.

Farmington Hills Mayor Robert McConnell read a telegram from President Richard M. Nixon on the celebration, and at the conclusion, an 1824 U.S. flag was raised on the flagpole in front of the inn.



Photo by Fran Evert

SMITH BROTHERS

Bob Smith gets trimmed by Andrew Haines while Dr. Roderick Smith watches.

State Rep. Ray Baker says he is retiring

By DAN McCOSH

The retirement of State Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) a 14-year veteran in what has been known as a solidly Republican district, has created a wave of speculation about who will run for the 64th district post.

Baker, 68, announced his decision not to run again Friday. He said his decision was based solely on his desire to spend more time with his family, and in pursuit of the leisure activities which he has always enjoyed.

His district includes Farmington and a portion of western Southfield. He said his decision "has a whole lot more to do with fishing than with Watergate."

"I COULD almost rationalize seeking office for two more years just to avoid the appearance of stepping down out of fear," Baker said. "But my wife and family have for 14 years been devoted and understanding about the time away from them, which this job requires, and I think that's long enough."

Baker's announcement was followed quickly by the announcement Roger Walker, a Farmington insurance man, would run for the post.

Oakland County Commissioners Wilbur Brotherton and Pat Nowak are also reportedly interested. Brotherton was uncommunicative Friday.

Nowak said he would be thinking about the race, but did not know if he was in a position to cut back his full-time business activities.

While the county post is part-time, the state seat is full time.

REP. BAKER, a retired pharmacist, has devoted the past 18 years to public service, including four years on the Berkley City Council prior to being elected to the Michigan House in 1959.

A member of the house committees on conservation and recreation, as well as insurance, he was best known for his work in the conservation field.

"When I first came here we worked only a few months of the year, and I'm not sure that now we are 'full time' legislators we are accomplishing that much more," he said.



REP. RAYMOND BAKER

"I do believe that the imposition of definite deadlines for the introduction and passage of bills, as well as the consolidation of the committee system would result in great improvements in legislative accomplishments."



130 ATTENDED

From left: Jim Stevens, Don Hickey, Ken Pank, Tom Sweeney, Bert Parsons, Jim Pierce, Vance Kloster, and Gerry McArthur.

MUD!

Rains make problems grow



Photo by Ralph Evert

KENWOOD LAKE

The road closed sign is up again on Kenwood Lake.

By CARL STODDARD

"Mud, mud, glorious mud - there's nothing quite like it for soothing the blood," according to songwriter Chuck Mitchell. But a few folks in the southeast section of Farmington Hills just might disagree. At the corner of Flanders and Rhinewood, John Rambow and Robin McBride were taking down a makeshift barricade Thursday.

The barricade was put in place,

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HOW DEEP?

John Rambow checks the depth.

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