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Pigeons ready to fly

If Pauline Pigeon landed on your home in the wee hours of the morning, she would probably crash right through the roof. Luckily, such a calamity has been avoided up to now, and the ponderous bird appears to be limiting her activities to an annual sighting at the Farmington Founders pigeon race.

The many activities at the pigeon race kick off the 10th annual Farmington Founders Festival Thursday, July 18, at 11:30 a.m.

Contestants fight for a chance at the famous perpetual pigeon trophy. The pigeons do all the work, flying to a pre-determined destination after being released by the contestants.

Entered are numerous radio, television and press celebrities, as well as representatives from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

As a special attraction, Pauline, the 250 pound pigeon, will appear and may hatch the giant egg she laid last year.

The pigeons take off from the site of the Farmington Jaycee Rodeo, at Farmington Rd. and 12 Mile, at 12:30 p.m.

This year's sponsors include the Danish Inn, Thompson-Brown, Sanderson Realty and Bob Saks Oldsmobile.

Pigeon co-chairperson is Ronnie Burton of Beauchamp-Smith Realty. Following the race at 12:30, the contestants will return to the Inn to await the results of the race.



Founders Festival gets ready

The 10th annual Farmington Founders Festival is expected to draw 20,000 to the area this year.

Plans include an 11-day celebration, beginning with the jovial pigeon race, and concluding with an old-fashioned "Sunday in the park," Sunday, July 28.

There will be carnivals, helicopter rides, shows, concerts, square dances, parades, fireworks displays, antique sales, art exhibits, and car rallies. New this year are a sunrise service Sunday, July 28, the "Sunday in the park," a showmobile in downtown Farmington with continuous entertainment during much of the festival; and a sesquicentennial senior queen contest for women 62 and older.

Gov. William Milliken will serve as grand marshal of the parade Saturday, July 27.

"WE WANT to stress the festival is not solely for the benefit of Farmington area residents," the sponsors said.

"It is our hope to attract to this year's festival more of our neighbors from Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties."

"We want an opportunity to demonstrate that we truly are a 'community of pride.'"

The festival this year is being headed by Gerald G. Potter.

Ms. Jeanie Young is first vice-chairman, and Peter Prokop is second vice-chairman. James E. Wibby is

treasurer; Ms. Rae Rockafellow is executive secretary, and John Ogarek and Robert Smith are advisers. Charles H. Williams is finance chairman; Robert Beauchamp is board chairman, and Edward Lane is administrator.

Dan Greenberg is in charge of publicity.

THE RODEO, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees, is July 19, 20 and 21. It follows the pigeon race to kick off the festival. The Jaycees are constructing 3,000 seats and a large standing room facility at the site at Farmington and 12 Mile Rd.

Proceeds will be used by the Jaycees to support their community projects. Advance tickets are available at a reduced price from the Farmington Jaycees, PO Box 33, Farmington, 48324.

Events this year include bareback bronc riding, calf roping, saddle bronc riding, cowgirls' barrel race, wild steer wrestling and Brahma bull riding.

Friday, July 19, is also the opening night of "The Power of It All," a history of the Farmington community playing at the Farmington Players barn.

The full calendar begins Monday, July 22. The Observer & Eccentric will be publishing a special supplement honoring the sesquicentennial theme of the festival this year.

A Farmington pioneer looks at his life

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—John Graham, 30125 Farmington Rd. has seen Farmington go through a lot of changes in the 88 years he's lived in the area.

Graham, who still lives on the same farm that he grew up on remembers when the area was all farmland and a farmer would need two days to take his produce into the Eastern Market in Detroit.

"We would have to go into Detroit to the Eastern and Western Market once or twice a week when the fruit was ripe," he said. "We would leave here at nine o'clock and arrive in town at four. We'd spend the night and come back the next day."

Graham has been asked to serve as the escort for the ladies during the senior queen contest for the Farmington Founders Day festival.

Graham said he doesn't know yet what he is supposed to do during the contest which will take place on Thursday July 25.

The judging for the queens contest will be at 8 p.m. on July 25 at the showmobile in the Downtown Center.

He said he thinks he was chosen to act as the escort for the senior queens

because he has been in the area longer than anybody else.

"The only one of my school chums who is still around is Stanley Drake," he said. "He is three months younger than I am. He lives a couple of miles away, over on Drake Road."

GRAHAM REMEMBERS when he and Drake used to go to Nichols school and play games like "duck on the rock" and "andy eye over."

Duck on the rock was a game they played with rocks which they threw around in an attempt to knock a small rock off a larger rock.

"We used to play that game all the time until a rock hit my cousin in the head and the teacher made us stop," he said.

He also remembers that there were two entrances into the school, one of on the south side for the girls and one of the north side for the boys.

Graham, who said he loves to travel has seen the horse and buggy be replaced by the automobile, and has seen the introduction of the airplane.

"I'VE BEEN ON an airplane but I don't like them," he said. "I am too young to die. I like to keep my feet on the ground in case anything goes wrong."

Sesquicentennial looks for its senior queen

The selection and crowning of a Sesquicentennial Senior Queen will be one of the highlights of the 10th Annual Farmington Founders Festival which this year caps the five months of sesquicentennial celebrations.

Senior queen participants must be residents of Farmington or Farmington Hills, over the age of 62 by June 15, 1974. They must be willing and able to ride in the festival parade on Saturday, July 27 and available for the special crowning ceremony on Thursday, July 25.

Nominations will be accepted by letter of 150 words or less and should be postmarked no later than Friday, July 19.

Nancy Bates, who is in charge of the event said, "We believe that the numerous charming ladies in our community who qualify for this event should be encouraged to participate. We think nominating letters from friends, children, grandchildren or neighbors who has a favorite Senior Queen would be appropriate."

A panel of five will judge the contest for the crowning set for 8 p.m. Thursday, July 25, in the showmobile in the Downtown Center. The queen will be crowned by John Anhut, of Botsford Inn.

Prizes include a scholarship to the John Wesley College of Continuing Education, dinner for two at Botsford Inn, and a dinner and overnight stay in "queen-style" accommodations in Wesley Center in Owosso.

Sesquicentennial Senior Queen will ride in an antique car in a place of honor in the Founders Festival Parade.

Graham and Drake did travel to California together three times.

"The first time we took his Studebaker, and the second two times we took my cars. We both had relatives that we would stay with, so we would travel and just be regular bums for a few months."

Graham still likes to travel and often drives to visit relatives and friends.

He used to take the milk from the farm to the cheese factory which was on the corner of Farmington Rd. and 14 Mile, an area which he said used to be known as North Farmington.

After the cheese factory closed, one of the neighbors would gather up all of the milk in the neighborhood and take it into town.

HE ALSO remembers when all the neighbors used to get together and help each other out with the threshing or building.

"We would all get together and work and then the women would cook enough to feed everyone," he said.

For entertainment he said he used to go dancing in Walled Lake and Clarenceville.

"**WE USED TO** dance at the Botsford Inn, too," he said. "You know that used to be further east but they moved it. We used to dance there and at Walled Lake on holidays like the Fourth of July."

When he was born his parents had 154 acres of farm land. Most of it has been sold, and the original house that he lived in, burned down, but he still lives on a part of the farm, in a newer house, with his daughter and son-in-law.

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John Graham, escort for the ladies in the senior festival queen contest loves to travel.