



Edgar Bloomer takes a break at his desk in the Farmington Enterprise office. Bloomer was the founder of the Enterprise which has evolved into the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.

A proud tradition set by Enterprise

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

It was Nov. 2, 1888 and Edgar Bloomer proudly sat back in his desk chair looking at the first edition of the Farmington Enterprise. He skimmed the pages looking at articles and advertisements, alike. It had been a struggle, but the first edition was out.

It has been nearly 88 years since Farmington's own paper hit the streets. Ever since then, it has been chronicling the history of a proud community.

Sitting in front of his electric typewriter, surrounded by 20th century technology, the modern journalist wonders how Bloomer would feel about today's newspaper.

Although the name has changed and format reworked to meet the needs of modern-day

readers, the Farmington Observer & Eccentric is proud to identify its lineage to the Enterprise.

AS A MATTER of fact, the Enterprise name had such an impact that many persons today still refer to the Observer & Eccentric as the Enterprise.

Bloomer was 33 at the time he rushed his first edition off the press and into the streets. He remained with the paper until 1898 when he moved to Sparta and consolidated the Sentinel and Leader newspapers. He died in 1909.

But Bloomer began a tradition of community journalism which still exists today. He believed in producing a newspaper which would serve the interests of the Farmington area while informing residents of matters in which they

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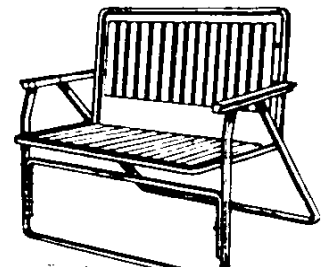
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