

Enterprise tradition continues

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 90 years since Farmington's own paper hit the streets. Since then, it has chronicled the history of a proud community.

Sitting in front of his electric typewriter or computer terminal, 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 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 as the Enterprise.

Bloomer was 33 at the time he rushed his first edition off the press and out to 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 would be interested.

Much of what he wrote in that

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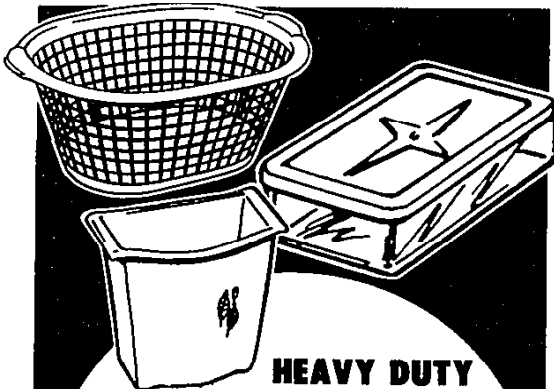
Carrying on the tradition of community journalism set by Edgar Bloomer is Farmington Observer Editor Steve Barnaby. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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