



In the sunny Wallaert den (above), contemporary shutters were added to Federalist window moldings dating the home's construction circa 1837. The original Botsford home (above right) has a twin on Shiuwassee across the valley, both homes reflecting the Greek revival period in the Village of Farmington. The four-poster bed in the master bedroom (below) is topped with an antique crocheted canopy. (Photos by Allen Schlossberg)



## Historic home tour offers key to Farmington founders

By LYNN ORR

For a remembrance of things past, visitors to this weekend's Farmington Founders Festival may make their way through the historical roots of the community via two home tours.

The Wallaert-Botsford farmhouse, built circa 1837 by Lemuel and Lucy Botsford and now owned by Albert and Ellen Wallaert, offers a tour of a classic Greek revival farmhouse. The home, located at 2414 Farmington Road, just north of Ten Mile, will be open from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 per person or \$6 for families, proceeds to benefit the candidacy of Judith Dennehy Doran, candidate for Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

Farmington resident Charlotte Outlaw will open her home at 3324 Oakland, just east of Farmington Road, from 1-5 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free to the original Arthur Lamb home built in 1917.

THE ORIGINAL Botsford home was built on land originally granted by the federal government to John Power in 1825, when the village of Farmington was founded. Only 10 owners have held title to the home since it was built, including the Pettibone family which owned the home from 1889-1935.

"That's one reason much of the house has survived," explains Mrs. Wallaert. Features of the home include oak pegged floors, Federalist

door and window moldings, a slate floor on the screened porch, bay windows, and cherrywood hand-turned balusters complementing a charming front hall staircase.

A Greenfield Village curator assisted Ralph and Estelle Finerman in making major renovations to the home during their tenure from 1935-46. Charles and Wilhelmina Mathes owned the home from 1946-62, when Edward and Bonnie Cunningham bought the rambling house. The Wallaerts acquired the home eight years ago when Wallaert moved job locations to the west side area.

Although he left the position four months later to return to an east side practice, the Wallaert family, including six children, had fallen in love with the white frame home and three acres of grounds.

"We just knew we couldn't sell it," said Mrs. Wallaert, who practices law on the east side as well. The commute to Farmington is worth six bedrooms, and a spacious living room and plant-filled dining room. A wing to the home, which houses the kitchen and laundry areas, was built in the 1940's.

When Mrs. Wallaert tackled some redecorating, she scraped off layers of old wallpaper in the hall leading to the children's wing to uncover the original unpainted plaster. Wallaert touches are mostly cosmetic, she says. Wallaert's hat collection in the downstairs

hall, Mrs. Wallaert's miniatures and needlepoint, antique bottles, and antique clocks complement the 19th century atmosphere. The master bedroom, which has an impressive view of the Farmington valley, includes a four-poster bed with antique, crocheted canopy.

One remnant of the home's farmhouse beginnings is a small white milkhouse in the yard topped by an "ancient bell," Mrs. Wallaert says. The milkhouse was used to cool the milk supplied by Botsford cows. Huge lilac bushes and a plentitude of tall trees lend a country atmosphere to the surroundings.

CHARLOTTE Outlaw, a Farmington High graduate, purchased the original Lamb home just months ago and has already poured hours of labor into restoring the home in Farmington's Old Village area.

The interior is contemporary, planned by Ms. Outlaw.

"Most people walk in an old home and expect antiques," she explains. "I've just done the opposite, because you immediately are drawn to the old features like the woodwork in contrast."

The home, built in 1917, has some Victorian influence, but unusually spacious rooms and windows. It's one of only a few brick homes built at the time with three large pillars in front.

## Senate battle heats; Cooper, Ross spar

By JACKIE KLEIN

"Oakland County needs a full-time senator in Lansing, not a part-time lawyer."

The spokesman was Doug Ross, Democratic contender for a 15th District state senate seat, in another of a series of criticisms against his political opponent, Sen. Daniel E. Cooper (D-Oak Park.)

Ross, during a recent gathering in Southfield, pledged to make the senate his "full-time commitment" if elected.

"Cooper's attempt to do his job on a part-time basis while maintaining a large law practice has left the citizens in this area without full-time representation we pay for and deserve," Ross maintained.

Cooper, who is majority floor leader of the senate, claims his attendance record in the legislature is about 90 per cent. According to a senate journal survey, in the last 18 months, Cooper's record of attendance is 87 per cent.

"I have no intention of giving up my 20-year law practice," Cooper said. "Talented individuals can do a number of things including being an effective legislator in Lansing and a good attorney. I often see my constituents in my own Birmingham office and respond to their needs at my own expense."

"I HAVE always campaigned in the open about my law practice. It makes me a better legislator because an attorney is aware of real problems which are rapidly changing. You can lose sight of these problems if you're a full-time legislator."

Ross contends taxpayers pay a state senator more than \$34,000 a year in salary, fringes and expenses. He also claims senators are paid another \$300,000 in overhead costs.

Cooper said he earns \$24,000 a year in base salary, receives about \$4,500 in living expenses, which are completely absorbed, and gets Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance.

The majority floor leader, according to Billy Farnum, secretary of the senate, earns \$29,000 a year. The minority leader gets \$27,000 and other senators' salaries are \$24,000. Under the state constitution, Farnum said, senators receive \$4,000 in expenses which must be justified.

Trips on legislative business must be approved by a senate committee, Farnum said. All state employees receive Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance and senators get \$24,000 in life insurance.

Farnum said senators are provided with offices and a staff. Senate committee chairmen are allocated a staff of four, he said. The secretary said

the \$300,000 figure, mentioned by Ross, is inaccurate.

ROSS INSISTS senators, in many cases, are paid full-time salaries for a three-day work week in Lansing. Cooper denied Ross's implication that he (Cooper) works only from Tuesday through Thursday on legislative business.

"As I walk door-to-door each day, people tell me they expect more from a senator than just votes in Lansing," Ross said. "They want a senator who will take time to return regularly to Oakland County to explain what's happening in Lansing and to listen to constituents."

"They also want someone who will put in long, often tedious, hours checking out the performance of different state programs to determine which are working and which are wasting our tax dollars."

THE DAYS ARE past, Ross contends, when a newsletter from Lansing every six months and a few hours of shaking hands in front of a supermarket right before election are enough. People, he said, are demanding public officials who will commit time and energy to work with constituents to improve government performance.

"I use mailings because my constituents like them," Cooper asserted. "Leaving the community and governing from afar destroys the system. Citizens should be legislators. I'm a member of the community, and I understand typical, grass roots problems. I don't believe in a government run by elitists."

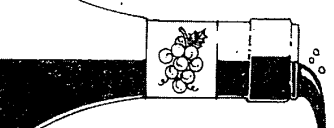
Ross said he was disappointed with the failure of the state senate to deal with "repeated abuses of its travel, office decorating and free mailing privileges."

"If the senate is to play a strong role in improving government efficiency and reducing waste, it must put its own house in order," he said. "As director of the Michigan Citizens Lobby, I helped draft the legislative accountability act to curb spending abuse. (Ross resigned his MCC post when he became a candidate.)"

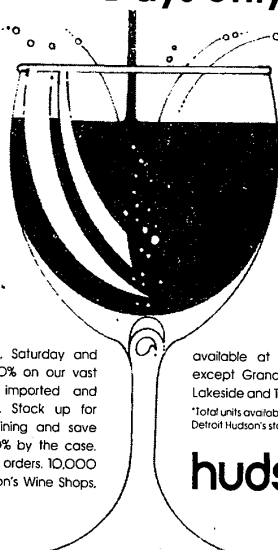
"Most senators, including my opponent, have refused to act on the bill. If I'm elected, I would voluntarily comply with the proposed law to limit junkets, unnecessary office remodeling and taxpayer mailings 60 days before the election."

Cooper accused Ross of throwing "broadbrides" at the entire state senate and repudiated his challenger's remarks.

"My 'unnecessary office remodeling' has consisted of adding one bookshelf. My opponent is grabbing at straws in an attempt to get his name before the public. But his allegations are grossly inaccurate."



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