

Roots search is genesis giant history collection

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copy of the first edition," Cook says.
Unfortunately, the elder Cook was unaware of a method to preserve newspaper and the edition was neatly folded up and put into a drawer. Today, Cook is almost afraid to unfold the frail network of yellowing newspaper. He prefers to show visitors a photostat of the original.

AMONG THE ARTICLES he's keeping for the historical society are a picture of the Farmington Union School on the old site of Farmington Junior High School.
The photo of Farmington Union School shows a solemn-faced line of elementary school students arrayed in front of the old school which burned down in 1918. The first owner of the photo neglected to jot down the year it was taken or the names of any of the students.

But careful study of the flag shows 42 stars. Officially, the number of states rose from 38 to 43 on July 4, 1890. July 4 is the traditional day when new states' stars were officially attached to the flag.



ROBERT COOK

Evidently in 1889, Montana, Washington, North Dakota and South Dakota were added to the Union. There weren't any more petitions to join the Union af-

ter those states were admitted to flag makers in late 1889 and early 1890 decided to get busy turning out flags with 42 stars. Then on July 3, 1890, Idaho was admitted as the 43rd state.
Nevertheless, some of the premature flags were sold and evidently one fluttered above Farmington Union School.

USING the flag as a clue, Cook deduced the picture was taken somewhere between 1890-92.
"They wouldn't get a new flag just because it was one star off," he says.

The school bell of early Farmington educator Harry McCracken is also in the picture. The bell is a large, brass-bodied, wooden-handled instrument that doesn't need a public address system to be heard above the din of children at play.

The historical society acquired the bell in May 1978 from the McCracken family.

McCracken lived from 1865-1957. He served as a teacher in one-room school houses around Farmington. He was the district's first superintendent, from 1899-97.



KAREN SIMPKINS

Research analyst wins promotion

Karen Simpkins, formerly of Farmington, has been promoted to assistant program director for the study of children and families at Eastern Michigan University.

Now a resident of Chelsea, she is a senior research analyst.

She has served as the senior research analyst for Eastern's Foster Parent Training Project since 1975. In 1976, she was conference coordinator for the Michigan Foster Parent Association's state. She also has worked as a woman's sport consultant for the Ann Arbor Recreation Department.

Youngsters put to shame by senior GOP volunteer

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person to deal with, whether Republican or Democrat.

Since she represents her church in the Detroit Memorial Society, Mrs. Cope is keeping an eye on legislation dealing with containing the cost of health care and the funeral industry.

SHE'S BEEN active in Farmington area political issues since she moved to the town in 1954 from Detroit. She is a retired social work department supervisor from Detroit.

Her vacations keep the same pace as the rest of her life. Surrounded by books on travel and geography, she's planning her next trip.

She was forced to scrap the idea of a trip to China because the tour appeared to be too strenuous for her. Instead she's turned her sights on Egypt or Spain. Her favorite places are Peru and Switzerland but she isn't interested in making a return trip. There's more that she wants to see for the first time for her to indulge in a return visit.

Her largest problem is lining up a traveling companion for her travels.

"Most of my friends are in their fifties. It's hard finding someone my own age to travel with. And I don't know if I'd want to take that responsibility," she says.

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