

This was the scene on May 10, 1971 as Richard Klinkman (latt) reads the restraining order to then city manager John Dinan. The order prohi-bited the city from felling the glant maple tree on

the Gill Road property. Looking on, in tie and shortsleeve shirt, was then public works director Dave Jones.

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Historic fight is

While thousands gather in Farmington for this year's Founders' celebration, a quiet and sad farewell will be taking place underneath the old maple tree on Gilli Road which was the center of attention 12 years ago.

The Kiinkman family, who gained national attention during a battle to save a 320-year-old maple tree, is leaving town.

save a 310-year-old maple tree, is leaving town.

And they will be leaving one member short. The man who lead the fight, the father, Richard Klinkman, died two years ago.

"I remember standing underneath the tree with my busband and hearing him say, Til be long dead and gone and the tree will still be there." and Ritta Klinkman, as she sorted through the four albums chocked full of newspaper clippings and photographs which memortalize the famous fight lead by her husband.

"Little did I dream that 10 years latter he would be dead," she said Mr. Klinkman was 50 where he did.

But 13 years ago, the world was in full bloom for this family. They had just recently purchased their suburban dream home on three acres of wooded property. Directly in freet of the home stone.

dream home on three acres of wooded property.
Directly in front of that home stood the majestic 70-foot maple. And that's just where they wanted the tree to stay. Initially, (ty) leaders had other ideas. Urhanization was coming to Farmington. Gill Road had to be widened. The tree had to go.

But on may 10, 1971, as work crews pulled down shruhs and trees on each

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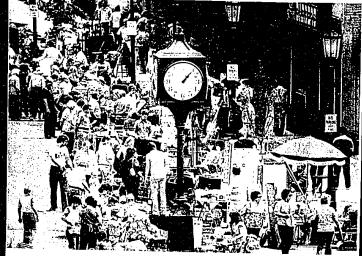
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