

Down by the old mill

Working water wheel graces subdivision

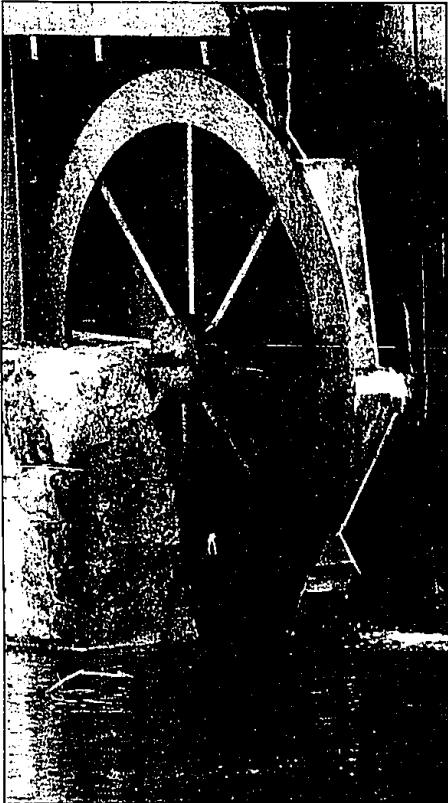


photo by TOM BAER/staff photographer

The steel hub of the Old Franklin Towne water wheel weighs more than 300 pounds. The wheel, pump house and pond form the backdrop for a television newscast.

By Diane Gale
staff writer

An idyllic country scene stands in stark contrast to traffic whizzing by on Middlebelt south of 14 Mile.

A wheel house, with running water constantly flowing, sits in the midst of a pond right in central suburban Farmington Hills. It greets people at the entrance of the Old Franklin Towne subdivision, and has become a focal point to residents who consider it a plus for the neighborhood.

The landmark has received broad recognition as standing scenery footage during Channel 7 weather broadcasts, and has served as the ideal background setting for photographers.

The transplanted country atmosphere has been a step into the unusual for children and even some brave

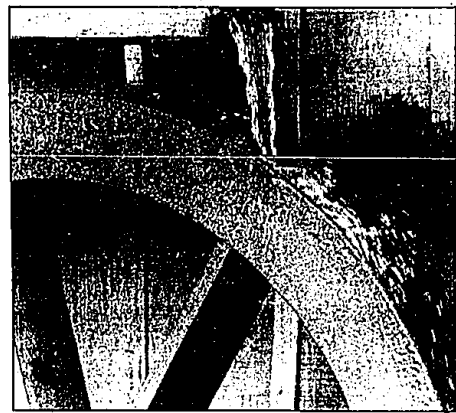
adults who have been seen casting their fishing poles in the small man-made pond. Each has the fisherman's die-hard hope of hooking a bass, perch or blue gill. During the winter months, youngsters use the pond as a skating rink.

And, some people simply think of the area as place to relax.

"It's really nice just to sit there with a book," said Carol Elmer, a resident. "I love it. It's one of the better assets of the subdivision."

RESIDENTS LIKE the mill house, pond and surrounding grass land so much that they are willing to pay for the upkeep through a portion of their annual homeowner's association maintenance fee. Homeowners pay \$85 an-

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Water, falling from an overhead trough, makes the water wheel go round and round.



A decorative — but working — water wheel and pump house stands at the entrance to the Old Franklin Towne subdivision near Middlebelt and 14 Mile roads in Farmington Hills.

memory lane

Memories, memories... have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington community from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

OCT. 5, 1944 —

"THESE WINTRY blasts make us think we'd better dig among the moth balls and pull out our red flannels," noted an item in the Around the Block column on the front page of the Farmington Enterprise. "It's odd how very short the summer seemed, now that it's about over, and yet just a short while ago we were wishing for winter to come. Though there are many who will differ with us about this — we'll still take the good old winter when it comes to picking seasons, so here's to the next few months."

ANOTHER AROUND the Block item said, "The nip in the air, even for those who dearly love the warm summer months, is not without some compensation, for football fans are just bubbling over with enthusiasm. Much attention is focused on the Farmington Facons, and in the larger circles — well, the trek of automobiles Ann Arbor-ward is mute testimony."

ACCORDING to a news release from New Delhi, India, Joseph H. DeVriendt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. DeVriendt, 34015 Oakland, was a member of Merrill's Marauders. The famous fighting group, named for Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, was awarded a presidential citation for its exploits behind Japanese lines in northern Burma.

COMING UP AT the Farmington Civic Theatre: "A Guy Named Joe" with Spencer Tracy and Irene Dunne and "Passport to Destiny" with Elsa Lancaster and Gordon Oliver.

WORD WAS received by the Clarenceville Board of Education that approval has been granted for construction of six new rooms with storage facilities and laboratories in the present school building. The federal government has agreed to provide \$32,400 for the project. The remainder must be raised through a special election.

OCT. 7, 1954 —

TOTAL CLASSROOM enrollment in the Farmington Township School District reached a record 3,535 on a recent Friday, Sept. 20. E. D. Duckel said that the total includes 2,418 in elementary schools and 1,118 in the junior and senior high school. According to a new law, these enrollment figures with future funds to be received from the state.

AN EDITORIAL said, "Plenty of abuse is being heaped on the Special Senate Committee which has recommended censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy."

"This doesn't come as any great surprise to anyone, much less the members of the Committee. The table is piled high with letters containing such choice words as 'Stupid,' 'Pro-Communists,' 'Boneheads,' and the rather gentle expression 'Biased.'"

Those of course refer to the members of the non-partisan committee, who, by the way, were given a job to do... and did it.

"Every citizen has a right to express his or her opinion and that goes for Senator McCarthy, too. But, at the same time, every citizen has a responsibility to be fair and constructive. Name calling is a typical means of diversion which is usually resorted to when no reason or logic can be found. Thus it is evident from the letters that the real ammunition is pretty well run out on the McCarthy side of the fence."

ROAST BEEF, pork or ham dinners — complete with a choice of soup, dessert, appetizer, vegetables or beverage — were available at the Farmington Dairy for \$1.95, according to an advertisement.

OCT. 7, 1964 —

FARMINGTON HIGH School's Homecoming Court included Queen Cheryl Tucker, Judy Hennessey and Pat Ayers.

GOV. GEORGE Romney, a Republican, refused to endorse Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater during a tour of Farmington and Farmington Township Oct. 3. Romney, accompanied by other Republican candidates, opened the party's official Farmington headquarters, lunched with campaign workers and spoke at two shopping centers.

THE FARMINGTON Township police captured an escapee from the Ionia State Hospital at his Pink Avenue home Sept. 28. The man did not resist arresting officers Det. Russell Conway and Ptl. Stephen Santo.

CLASSIFIED AD: "Healing Work — No fortune telling. Call before 10 a.m."

DICK ISBELL scored two touchdowns and Bruce Charles added another to help Farmington rip Pontiac Northern, 33-0, in a high school football game.

OCT. 3, 1974 —

JEFF McPIKE returned a kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown to highlight Farmington High School past Walled Lake Central, 22-14, in high school football action.

IN A HIGH school girls' basketball game, Mary Ann Thompson, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's tallest player at 6-foot-1, scored 18 points as the Marlins bested Redford Bishop Georges, 41-39. Jordan Bartos added 14 points and R.D. Hartle had 10.

JOHN BORDI, was one of about 15 Farmington Jaycees who participated in the recent cleanup of Farmington Hills' Waldron Park. The Jaycees helped clear brush from the area in anticipation of city improvements.

A "PERKY Pipe Cleaner Flowers" workshop was one of the fall attractions at the Farmington Community Center. Fee for the workshop was \$5 plus materials.

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