

# Artistic find transformed into a book

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19th century Farmington, Pontiac and Oakland County.

The watercolors are an "unusual quality" says Fox and show such intricate details as individual window panes in houses and minuscule leaves on trees. "These paintings are so evocative of an earlier period in time that many people love and are interested in," Fox says.

"The beginning of the 20th century was a progressive era, so positive. It was a wonderful way to live, and this book really reflects that."

Also in the book is Avery's detailed pen and ink map of the Drake property. Landmarks such as the Philbrick Tavern and the old sawmill are shown on the map. Individual types of trees were laboriously drawn in and identified.

ANOTHER PIECE of work never

published before and included in the book is an article written by Avery about the underground railroad in Farmington.

Avery conducted oral interviews with various Farmington residents whose ancestors were active in the railroad. She wrote the article for the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society in 1915 and also read it at a meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to Fox, this article may be the only one documenting the underground railroad activity in Farmington.

Historical and art historical perspectives of Avery written by Fox and Cameron are also included in the 70-page book.

Avery died in 1930 in Pontiac at the age of 74. After marrying Dr. Aaron Avery she bore two daughters in Farmington and then moved to Pontiac.

Her list of accomplishments includes being secretary for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, state historian for the Daughters of the American Revolution, genealogy writer and women's suffrage movement activist.

"She was quite an interesting woman," Fox said in an earlier interview.

"She did all those things and, incidentally, while she was up in the attic she painted pictures."

In fact, it was in the attic of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society in Pontiac where Avery's memoirs were discovered by Fox.

WHEN FOX realized the historical significance of her find she was determined to publish them in a book. The book has been more than a year in the making, but it has been well worth it, Fox says.

"There were half a dozen times when I thought this project isn't going to fly,

but we worked everything out, and the book is gorgeous," Fox says.

Fox credits the Farmington Hills City Council, the chamber of commerce and members of the Hills' Historical Commission for having the foresight to realize the potential of its historical perspective.

The original watercolors by Avery used in the book are copyrighted by the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society in Pontiac which made them available to Fox for the publication.

The book is available as a limited hardcover edition for \$30 and in paperback for \$15 and can be purchased at the Hills' City Hall and area book stores.

The release of the book was planned to kick off the Farmington Founders' Festival because, according to Fox, Avery was "truly one of Farmington's original residents" whose contributions to the community were left unnoticed until now.

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## Foreign students learn about suburbia

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sandwiches — chocolate bars inside two slices of buttered French bread — for breakfast.

Nagy also remembers being able to drink beer, wine and whiskey in French cafes where there is no age limit regarding alcohol consumption. Nagy said that French youth prefer "the hard stuff" to beer and wine. Although the prospect of unlimited drinking was a novelty and curiosity for him, he said it soon became "no big deal" to him.

Frachon is attracted to America's larger cars, fast-food restaurants, sports and MTV — a cable television

broadcast of continuous music video. Frachon has three television stations and one pay television station.

Nagy paid for part of his trip and his parents picked up the remainder of the cost.

According to Wheeler, French students are less mobile and less likely to hold part-time jobs. Consequently, French parents pay for their student's 4,700 francs — \$489 — trip to America. American students pay \$750. Wheeler said that the local and national French government underwrites their students' trip by 10 and 20 percent respectively in an effort to encourage cultural understanding.

HOMESICK STUDENTS and worry wart parents can telephone each other for \$8, and some American students took advantage of collect calls once a week during last year's trip to France, Wheeler said.

French clergy, Henri Hassan and Jean Seve, accompanied the students.

And even clergy are not above playful hijinks. Wheeler loves to serve French visitors corn on the cob for the first time without telling the visitor that it must be eaten with fingers. A usual play Wheeler uses is to place a knife and fork next to the ear of corn and watch the French visitor chase the cob around the plate. Another Wheeler favorite is watching the facial expression of a person eating peanut butter for the first time.

So far, the French students have toured Livonia City Hall and Catholic Central High School. A special mystery

music tour and pizza party is planned along with a trip to Cedar Point and the Ann Arbor Arts Festival. The grand finale is a giant family picnic on July 31 at Kensington Metropark where the French students will learn how to play baseball and then will challenge the Americans to a soccer game.

Approximately 700 students attend the Intercollegiate St. Denis compared to 1,100 students at Catholic Central.

Eight Catholic Central graduates who took part in the program have since returned to France on their own. Bruce Mair, a 1980 Redford Township graduate attended his first year of college at the University of Michigan and then went on to a second year of college at Aix-en-Provence. He has since graduated from U-M with a degree in international business law.

Kevin Staniewicz, a 1985 graduate, will be attending the Institut Catholique de Lyon this fall.

## Hospital council elects trustee

A local hospital administrator has been selected to the board of trustees of the Southeast Michigan Hospital Council (SEMHC) — a private, non-profit trade association representing hospitals in the seven-county southeastern Michigan area and a district council of the Michigan Hospital Association.

Michael J. Madden, executive vice president of the eastern Michigan region of Sisters of Mercy Health Corpo-

ration in Farmington Hills, was elected at the Council's Annual Meeting in Detroit June 10 to serve as one of 12 SEMHC trustees.

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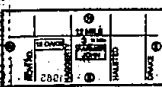
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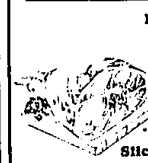
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