

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450



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## Sesquicentennial activities under way

By Louise Okrutaky  
staff writer

When Michigan celebrates its 150th birthday next year, Farmington and Farmington Hills will be on hand to wave its flags.

At the helm of the local observance is the Farmington Area Sesquicentennial Committee: Kay Briggs of Farmington Hills, Margaret Walker of Farmington and JoAnn Soronen, Farmington/Farm-

ington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Although the entire year is devoted to commemorating Michigan's sesquicentennial, the actual anniversary of the state's admission to the union on Monday, Jan. 26, 1837, is targeted for a special local spotlight.

Sesquicentennial flags will be hoisted in front of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls during separate ceremonies on that day. Ceremonies are set for 10 a.m. in

front of Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, and 2 p.m. in front of Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile. The sesquicentennial flags will be provided by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. A third flag-raising at the end of the day is set for Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills.

PLANS ARE being made for church bells to ring for five minutes beginning at noon on that day. Plans for a spiritual heritage ob-

servance are being made for the last weekend in January. Thomas Carr of Farmington is the church affairs liaison for the local committee.

Local activities continue throughout the year. A variety of ethnic organizations are gearing their annual celebrations to the sesquicentennial.

One of the first of these is the annual Robert Burns birthday dinner sponsored by the St. Andrew Society at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, in the Botsford Inn. The American Scandi-

navian Foundation, Detroit Association, hosts a Scandinavian Sesquicentennial ball at 7 p.m. Feb. 21, in the Botsford Inn.

Farmington Chapter Older Women's League and the Michigan Council for the Humanities will sponsor a performance by Candace Anderson at noon March 7 on the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus. Anderson performs songs she has written about famous and not-so-famous women in Michigan. The Farmington Founders Festival gets into the spirit July 16-18

with a sesquicentennial theme.

The Farmington Area Sesquicentennial Committee coordinates a calendar of local sesquicentennial events sponsored by clubs and service groups. The committee will publish the calendar on a regular basis beginning in January.

Those who want their group's contribution to the yearlong observance included on the calendar can contact Soronen at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33201 Grand River, Farmington.

## Genealogical society marks 150 years of statehood with a gift

The first local observance of the Michigan Sesquicentennial was made with a gift to Farmington Community Library, a four volume set of "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index."

The work was edited by P. William Filby, an internationally acclaimed genealogy researcher and compiler. The set includes the supplements to the original base set first published in 1922.

The gift was made by Farmington Genealogical Society, organized in 1973, which has donated a number of genealogical reference volumes to the local library.

The sesquicentennial gift, valued at more than \$500, will be shelved in the Local History Room of the

Farmington Branch Library, on State and Liberty streets in downtown Farmington.

The Farmington society used the proceeds it made from a recent Michigan Genealogical Council state seminar, which it co-sponsored, to purchase the volumes.

The complete eight-volume series includes references to more than one million persons who migrated to the new world from the middle of the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century.

The citations have been extracted from a broad collection of published passenger and naturalization records.

A massive work, the entries published to date cover only a fraction

of the 20 million immigrants who came to North America during this period. Annual supplements are expected to add about 200,000 additional names each year.

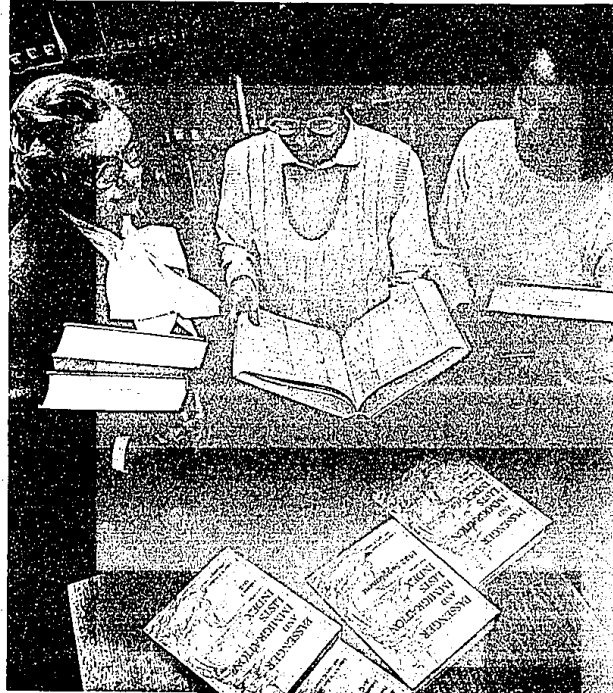
"THE WORK IS arranged in alphabetical sequence, and is an essential tool for those attempting to trace family migrations," said Margaret Walker, who is a founder of the local society, a past president of the society, and who served as general chairman for the state society's recent convention.

"The work is derived from worldwide sources. The index provides many details, such as the name and age of the primary immigrant, names and ages of any accompanying dependents and relatives, date and place of arrival or destination," she said.

"It also gives the information regarding the source from which the data was extracted. The index is a primary research tool that previously was available to local genealogists only in such places as the Burton Collection, Detroit's main library, or in other major genealogical libraries throughout the country," Walker said.

The Farmington Genealogical Society meets on the third Tuesday evening of every month in Farmington Branch Library.

All meetings are open to visitors without charge.



A four-volume set of "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index" is now at the Farmington Branch Library. The gift comes from Farmington Genealogical Society, presented by Margaret Walker (at left) and Betsy Davis, to librarian Marilyn Smith.



## Celebrate Michigan by becoming involved

The word from Michigan Sesquicentennial committees, on state, county and local levels is "Get involved." The committees have special events planned and ready to get under way, some in the making, some pending, with something for every resident and every visitor on the agenda.

For everyone to get involved, they

pass along some suggestions for large or small sesquicentennial celebrations.

- Seal a time capsule to be opened 150 years from now.
- Fly the sesquicentennial flag.
- Make up your own Michigan history trivia contest.
- Share Michigan tall tales, legends and histories.

- Write a play about Michigan history, then produce it.
- Plant a white pine.
- Show children how to preserve family photos or documents.
- Host a '150' theme party, and play Michigan history trivia.
- Ask the oldest person you know to share their memories with you.
- Record an oral history of the

- oldest person you know on tape or video.
- Visit historical museums in other parts of the state.
- Donate a family historical object or collection to a museum.
- Visit historic homes, historic business establishments and historic farms, particularly those with existing historic buildings and farm equipment.

- Eat Michigan-grown foods.
- Visit Michigan county fairs. Some have been going on continuously for 150 years.
- Whatever you might choose to sponsor with a Michigan theme, be it a sports event, baking contest, ice cream social, dance, program, or spelling bee, use the Michigan '150'

logo to promote the event. The logo is given without charge to non-profit groups and organizations. Profit making organizations are asked \$150 for the use of the logo. Inquiries about securing the logo are taken by David Warner, in the Michigan Sesquicentennial office in Lansing, 1-517-462-1987.



Curiosity about the woman best known as Marilyn Monroe led Gloria Steinem to write her latest book, "Marilyn: Norma Jeane."

## Feminist Gloria Steinem seeks to find Norma Jeane

By Rich Perlberg  
staff writer

She had a beauty that possessed men, but she could blend into a street crowd unnoticed. She was successfully typecast as a dumb blonde, but she eagerly read the works of Lincoln Steffens. She was what many call promiscuous, but she seldom enjoyed sex. She said she longed to be loved, but she had affairs even while married to a nation's sports hero and a country's leading playwright.

A woman of so-called easy virtue, she turned down lucrative offers to pose nude, but then accepted \$50 for a famous nude calendar shot. And what's most enigmatic of all about this woman called Marilyn Monroe is that it was her death in 1962, rather than her 35 years of life,

that has made her one of the most written-about women (40 books) in the 20th century. "It didn't seem to be fair to focus on her death more than her life," says Gloria Steinem, the feminist founder of its magazine and author of one of the latest books, "Marilyn: Norma Jeane."

"I was curious about who Norma Jeane was." IT WAS that curiosity that nurtured the text that wraps around photographer George Barris' mostly relaxed pictures of Monroe, the majority taken during the last months of her life. Steinem, at Border's book store at Southfield Road and 13 Mile for a book-signing session, writes sympathetic essays about Monroe, describing her, ironically, as a lonely out-

cast even while she was America's most desired screen star. As that movie star, Monroe was linked by romance, marriage or rumor to a varied cast of men: Joe DiMaggio, Arthur Miller, Frank Sinatra, Yves Montand and John and Bob Kennedy, among many others. "She is the most womanly woman I can imagine," Miller said about her before their marriage. "Most men become more of what they are around her; a phony becomes more phony, a confused man becomes more confused, a retiring man more retiring. She's kind of a lodestone that draws out of the male animal his essential qualities."

Steinem, however, explains differently how Monroe became the perfect woman for the post-World War II male. "She was the child-woman who of-

fered pleasure without adult challenge; a lover who neither judged nor asked anything in return," Steinem writes. "Both the roles she played and her own public image embodied a masculine hope for a woman who is innocent and sensuously experienced at the same time."

MEN LOVED the image, but women feared, disliked and distrusted it, according to Steinem. "By and large, men weren't penalized for being assertive or adventurous or intelligent," says Steinem, noting that Monroe's idealized woman shared none of these traits. To know Steinem's Marilyn Monroe is to study Norma Jeane Baker, a young girl abandoned by her father