# **Brown helped** library in its earlier days

Farmington Community Library became the first district library in Michigan, thanks to Robert Wendell Brown's "untiring efforts."

"The contributions which Wendell Brown made to the Farmington Community Library have had a significant impact on the direction of library service both within our compliantly and throughout the state," said Beverly Papal, library director.

A longtime Farmington Hills resident, Brown, 87, dled Saturday at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, after a

A well-known attorney, Brown practiced in Detroit from 1926 to 1981, when he moved his practice to Farmington Hills. He retired in 1988.

Brown had long been a part of the Farmington library system's history. He helped the passage of the 1955

district library law, enabling com-munities to share financial responsi-bilities for providing library service. He also helped establish the Farm-ington Friends of the Library.

Brown's efforts on behalf of the li-Brown's citorts on benau of the in-brary are documented in the Farm-ington Enterprise. In 1959, the paper devoted a story to Brown when he received a lifetime membership in the Friends group for his legal as-sistance in incorporating the group and his creation of an endowment fund from the Mary Deland estate.

In 1987, the Friends again honored In 1987, the Friends again honored Brown with a plaque recognizing his years of service to the organization, including six years as a board mem-ber and one as president. He also served on the Detroit Friends of the

Brown's community efforts didn't



Robert Wendell Brown (left foreground), who died Saturda) at 87, is shown cutting the ribbon on June 11, 1972, for the grand opening of the then-new 35,000-square-feet 12 Mile beauch of the Farmington Community Library.

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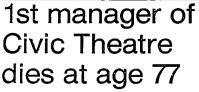
begin and end with the library. He was a past president of the Farmings on Board of Education and a church elder.

Brown is survived by his wife.

Barbara, two daughters. Bonne Travis and Mary Fletcher three grandchildren; and two sisters.

His body was donated to Wayne State University. A memorial service of the Control of the Contro

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It was Sept. 20, 1840, when Edward Hobler opened the doors to the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington. Framington and the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington and the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington and the Civic Theatre in the movie theater business. He was Sept. 1999, after a lifetime in the movie theater business. He was Sept. 1999, after a lifetime in the movie theater business. He was Sept. 1999, after a lifetime in the movie theater business. He was Sept. 1999, after a lifetime in the movie theater business. He was Sept. 1999, after the movie for the sept. 1999, and 1 the riscove theater basiness. He was
Hobler first managed the comminutity theater, then bought it in
1852 from a Detroit company, saving it from demise and operating it
is from the son Gregory owns and
operaties the movie house, a histortechnique to the city's downtown
business district.
Visitiano continues teday at the
Heeney-Kundquist Flueral Home in
Farmington from 1-5 pin and 7-19
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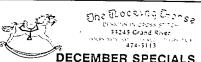
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