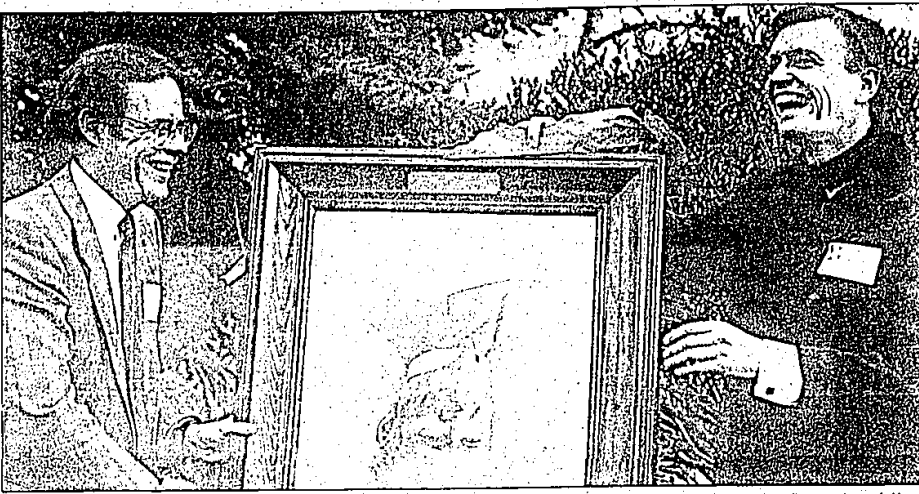




STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMUELL



Just showing off: Yvonne Singer, a Farmington Hills employee, displays the pantaloons underneath her 19th Century costume.

Whoops! Farmington Hills Mayor Jon Grant (left) and Bill Hartsuck unveiled the gift from Farmington Hills to Farmington during Wednesday's 125th anniversary celebration. The portrait of P.D. Warner gave the audience a laugh when it was accidentally opened upside down.

Pioneer descendants help mark 125th

BY CASEY HASS

STAFF WRITER

HOOP SKIRTS brushed the front lawn and men tipped their hats, no dozens of descendants of the area's pioneer families attended a reception Wednesday commemorating a special day for Farmington.

It was 125 years ago to the day that the 500 residents of Farmington voted to incorporate as a village, and last week community leaders and residents here began what will be a yearlong celebration of the event.

People like longtime Farmington residents Elaine Auten, Westfall

and Harold Westfall were enjoying the special reception which honored their families. Her father came to the Farmington area from Ortonville to teach school in 1912; his family came here from Germany in the 1870s, settling in the area where the Farmington Hills police station sits.

"We've just lived here all our lives," said Elaine. "I think it's really nice." She talked about what it was like growing up in Farmington, recalling things like "the friendliness of the people. Everybody was always willing to help," she added.

Eleanor Botsford of Waterford recalled her summer childhood days

when she would visit the Botsford Inn which was owned by her grandparents. "When I was three or four years old, I used to spend my summers there," she said.

Philip Power, master of ceremonies of Wednesday's event and descendant of Farmington founder Arthur Power, said he was pleased to see that although it has grown "I think Farmington has not changed much."

Power said the celebration will "help all of us have a sense of context, experience history, and exult in the community."

Resolutions were abundant, in-

cluding a joint resolution from the state legislature, and others from Oakland County, the city of Farmington Hills and Farmington Public Schools.

"I've been in this community all of my life," said Hills Mayor Jon Grant. "Farmington was a part of my life — I feel it's my celebration as well."

Other special events included interludes of period music from the Farmington High School Brass Ensemble, introduction of all the pioneer descendants present, a presentation of the original 1867 Village Council minutes from the Power family, and a portrait and accom-

panying information for a display of P.D. Warner, the first village council president, offered by neighboring Farmington Hills.

This year also marks the 125th anniversary of the Warner museum, where the reception was appropriately held. Members of the committees organizing the year's events all dressed in period costume to add a festive air.

Earlier in the week, Farmington city officials kicked off the celebration by dressing in period costume and accepting a gift of the city's Heritage Quilt, designed and made by 22 area craftswomen as a community project. The finished

project, which offers various quilted squares and needlework depicting the history of Farmington, will hang on permanent display at city hall.

"I'm... pleased about how it was done," said Laura Myers who coordinated the quilting project with Kathleen Bricker. "There were tremendously talented people. As the squares came in, it was like Christmas."

"It has truly been a community project."

The entire 125th anniversary effort is being coordinated by Farmington city councilwoman Shirley Richardson, who broached the idea 1 1/2 years ago when she was mayor.

Celebrating a heritage: Bob Sklar (left), Historical Society member, stands with Farmington descendants Eugene Power (center) and his son Philip. Philip Power is chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp., which owns the Farmington Observer.



Deep roots: Harold and Elaine Westfall, both descendants of Farmington founders, are on hand for the reception.

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