

CHAT ROOM



Kathie O'Donohue

Patience comes to those who wait patiently

It is seemingly elusive in some ways, even intangible. Often I realize I don't use it enough, and over the years I have consistently prayed for more. And no matter how much I think I have, I still feel deficient. It could only be patience.

There must be hope. I am more patient than I used to be. Still, the nagging question persists: How do you know when your patience gauge records a progress blip?

You know you have learned to be patient when you have managed to sit through three of your children's T-ball seasons. When that anxious "I need to be somewhere, anywhere, else" sense evaporates as you cheer that spectacular though completely fail-proof single base hit.

When you are late preparing dinner, two kids need your assistance with homework, and you simultaneously hear the strains (now understanding the origin of this word) of oboe being practiced somewhere in the house. Patience is listening to "Hot Cross Buns" routinely massacred by whatever instrument is in the process of mastery. I am able to snore to the tune by now.

Patience surfaces when you have checked every wallpaper store and perused all the sample books in a 50-mile radius to no avail for a match to the pretty satin bathroom paper with tiny roses from which one of your sons ripped a two-inch strip the

Please see CHAT ROOM, B3

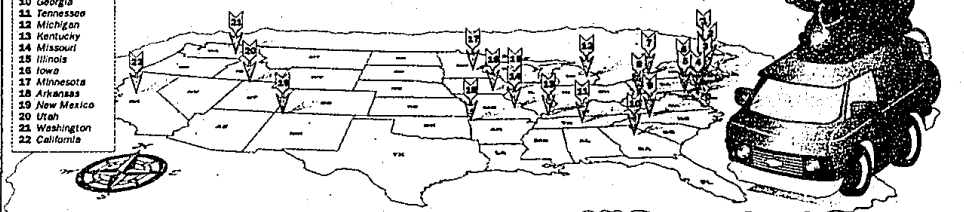
Key:

1. Maine
2. New Hampshire
3. Connecticut
4. Delaware
5. Maryland
6. Pennsylvania
7. New York
8. West Virginia
9. North Carolina
10. Georgia
11. Tennessee
12. Michigan
13. Illinois
14. Missouri
15. Indiana
16. Iowa
17. Minnesota
18. Arkansas
19. New Mexico
20. Utah
21. Washington
22. California

BE A MODERN-DAY EXPLORER

DISCOVER FARMINGTON

~ TIMES 22 ~



An enterprising fifth-grade class took on the task of contacting all 22 Farmingtons in America.

By Dave Litocot

SPECIAL WRITER

Here's a suggestion to all parents of Farmington school children: Skip Disney World and Cedar Point this summer. Forget about Up North. Instead plan a trip that will keep you close to Farmington but will require you to travel hundreds, maybe thousands of miles, around the United States.

Your task would be to visit all 22 Farmingtons in America. You would travel as far west as California, east to New England, and south to Farmington, Georgia. A couple of Farmingtons are a wide spot in the road, a crossroads, or a suburb of another small town. Some Farmingtons are large, prosperous and historic. By far, Farmington Hills, Michigan is the largest, with over 80,000 residents.

As part of a Social Studies project, three of my fifth-grade students wrote to all of the Farmingtons last October. Matt Sikora and Jeff Freer wrote the letters and addressed the envelopes.

Ryan Brodowsky plotted the returns on the large U.S. map hung on the bulletin board. The letters were addressed to the chambers of commerce and, within weeks, large and small envelopes were received with maps, brochures and interesting letters. Some of our original letters were returned. Some Farmingtons didn't respond at all.

A second mailing went out to the half that needed to reply. This time the letters were addressed to the mayor of each Farmington. We thought that every little burg had a "mayor" even if it was the local barber or sheriff. Again only a few were answered.

The original Farmington in America is in Connecticut. This sprawling, 1645 New England town of 23,000 residents was Connecticut's first inland settlement. It was a prosperous mercantile and banking center in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today this river-valley community features luxurious estates, mature trees, and more history than all the other Farmingtons combined.

Amistad experience
Farmington, Connecticut participant

in the Amistad experience by inviting members of the captive Africans to live there while money was raised to enable them to return to their native Sierra Leone. In the Hurricane of 1955, 13 lives were lost and 100 homes destroyed. Today one can visit the prestigious Miss Porter's Preparatory school or stop at the Polo Grounds to shop at one of New England's largest antique fairs.

While in New England, visit the Farmingtons in New Hampshire and Maine. The former is a town of 5,600 people that is 30 miles north of Portsmouth. It has three schools and the annual Hay Day celebration.

Maine's Farmington has 7,400 residents and a branch of the University of Maine. It has a radio station, cinema, an octagon-shaped house and numerous restaurants. Its annual events include the Fiddlers Festival and the Leaf Peppers Festival.

Farmington, Delaware was originally called Flatiron and was part of the plantation home of William Tharpe, governor from 1847 to 1851. Renamed in 1858 to reflect the major occupation of the region, Farmington was incorporated in 1909. The town has 43 houses, 122 residents, a con-

venience store, leather shop, machine shop and like most Farmingtons in the land, a volunteer fire department.

A day's drive away is Farmington, Maryland. It's not actually a town but a crossroads near Rising Sun in the northeast part of the state. According to the city clerk of Rising Sun, there was once a country store in Farmington and today it is the site of a small airport and farm equipment garage.

Farmington, West Virginia is a coal mining community with about 500 residents. It sits on the B&O railroad line and has a post office, clinic, two gas stations and, according to Mayor Harry Markley Jr., numerous small shops.

In rural North Carolina, Farmington is a crossroads southwest of Winston-Salem near the community of Mocksville, Arkansas. Farmington is a series of subdivisions five miles west of Fayetteville. It was incorporated in the late 1940s but has no downtown. Instead the residents rely on small retail and service oriented businesses along the main roads. There are four schools and a 26 member volunteer fire department.

Please see FARMINGTONS, B2

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