

CHAT ROOM



Kathie O'Donohue

This mom's glad she got the 'most difficult' job

The help wanted ad was a bit unclear but said the position required deep commitment and unfailing resolve.

It explained that anyone applying must be willing to take abuse, have the ability to stand firm even when feeling jiggly as Jell-O inside. Must be able to be taken for granted, work harder, worry more, sometimes endure one's emotions so twisted they can't easily or even successfully be sorted out.

Applicant has to allow the experience of deep pain, great sadness interspersed with moments of pure delight. Must possess strength enough to withstand being unappreciated, angry with, disappointed in, wished away, and at times, even hated. Must be capable of steeling oneself to be able to care for bleeding wounds - visible and not - broken limbs, untimely illness and have the flexibility required to deal with phases and stages that sometimes turn on a dime often before they are understood or even remotely identifiable.

Must manifest ability to withstand sometimes cruel comments, assault on all your senses and then some. Be prepared to feel pride and sorrow, disap-

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

Family literally takes place in history

■ Paul and Jenny Wenson and their children now reside in the former Philbrick Tavern, once one of the stops on the Underground Railroad.

By RUTH MOSELMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

The Philbrick Tavern was an early "open house" with excellent food and entertainment in the pioneer days of Farmington Township.



Open houses were places where people were allowed to stop on the trails. Some of the open houses became inns or taverns.

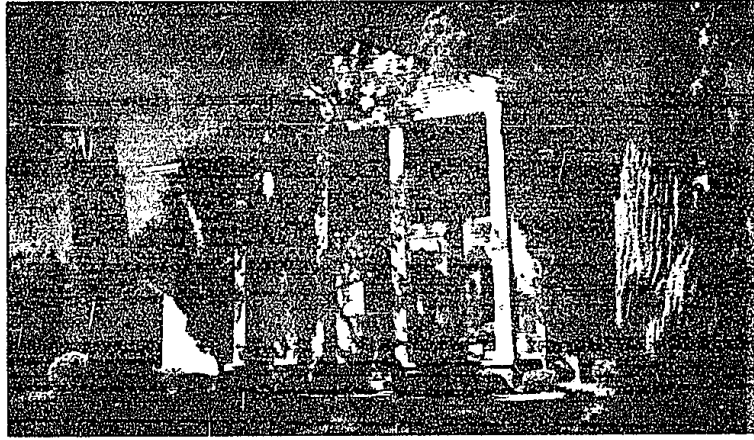
Nathan S. Philbrick's house was the location of the 1828 township meeting. After 1853 the tavern became a farmhouse. The farmhouse was on the Underground Railroad, a system of places escaping slaves could find shelter and help in pre-Civil War days.

Now this elegant historic house is an ideal place for Paul and Jenny Wenson to raise their children.

Either by design or accident the Philbrick property was along the Orchard Lake Trail. The Orchard Lake Trail, not to be confused with the Orchard Lake Road, traveled at a comfortable angle from Wayne County, past what was to become Farmington Village, past Orchard Lake and on to Pontiac and beyond.

The cross road, the current 11 Mile, was eventually called the Lansing Post Road, but Lansing didn't become the Michigan Capitol until 1847.

Anyway, Nathan S. Philbrick arrived in Farmington in 1826. His house was standing by 1828 when the township yearly meeting was held there. Nathan S. Philbrick had briefly owned another tavern along the Grand River Trail. That establishment was the Walker



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREHAR

The place to be: In its early years, the Philbrick Tavern was one of the hot spots of Farmington Township, with fine food and entertainment.

Tavern, later the Wixom Tavern.

The tavern of the early 1800s was not the 20th century tavern, simply a place for drinking. It was a restaurant, a place to stop or a place to sleep for travelers on the early trails.

The tavern was also a place for entertainment with a second-floor ballroom. In some inns or taverns, dances were held on Saturday nights. Meanwhile, because of the limited number of guests, the proprietor of a tavern or inn often had a second or even third vocation. Nathan S. Philbrick owned 160 acres to farm even if he didn't actually farm them himself. He was also a jus-

tice of the peace for the township in 1834, 1838 and 1840.

Before the township had any building, government meetings were held in the local public houses or taverns. The tavern owners lived in the taverns.

Nathan S. Philbrick's wife, Asenath, was evidently a sensational cook. This made their tavern a popular spot. The Philbrick Tavern was a little removed from the early main travel trails, the Grand River and the Shiawassee.

The Grand River Trail became the Grand River Military Road, later the Grand River Plank Road or turnpike after 1850.

An old article stated that Asenath Philbrick used special seasoning in her food. She was reputed to have used "scotch" in her pies and cakes.

Nathan S. Philbrick was one of 11 children of Nathaniel and Hannah Philbrick. He had five brothers and five sisters. They lived in Ontario County, N.Y., where many of the early Farmington settlers came from.

Nathan and Asenath had two sons, Harrison and Nathaniel. Harrison lived in Farmington and operated a saw and cider mill. Nathaniel moved to

See VINTAGE, B2

What a find.

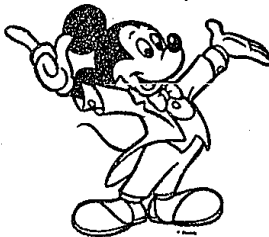
In celebration of our 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, make plans to join us throughout the month of August for a host of special events!



Live Disney Spectacular!

Join us for these great FREE Disney events Friday, August 6 through Sunday, August 8 from 1 p.m. through 5 p.m.:

- Mickey's Rock-A-Robics, Mickey, Donald Duck and Goofy will be performing on the hour from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. (Performance lasts approximately 20 minutes.)
- Disney Doodles features a Disney sketch artist who will narrate and sketch a scene from a Disney film. Disney Doodles will be performed on the half hour from 1:30 p.m. through 4:30 p.m. (Performance lasts approximately 20 minutes.)
- Mickey & Minnie and Belle & Beast Meet and Greet (1 p.m.-5 p.m.)
- Enter to win a "Disney Girls" denim jacket. See The Disney Store for details.



■ Win a Walt Disney World Vacation for Two in Orlando, Florida courtesy of L'vonia Carlson All Aboard Travel. Enter to win at their cart across from CooperSmith's.

Other Events/Happenings in August:

- August 6 through August 8: Grab-bag Giveaway. 250 bags containing \$10 gift certificates, coupons and samples will be given away each day.
- August 9 through August 19: 10 Days at 10% Off Sale. Pick up your coupons at the Laurel Park Place Management Office or at any directory stand. Take 10% off a regularly-priced item at any of the participating stores.
- Saturday, August 7, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: Kids' Cookie Decorating at Mrs. Fields Cookies.
- Saturday, August 7, 2 p.m.: Jacobson's Back-to-School Fashion Show in the Children's Department.
- Saturday, August 14, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.: Cooking Demonstration with a Master Chef at Williams-Sonoma.



- Saturday, August 21, 1 p.m.: Parisian Fashion Show in the Parisian Court.
- And...a taste of what's to come... To celebrate the opening of the new Sweet Lorraine's restaurant coming soon to the L'vonia Marriott, they will be giving away samples of their delicious cuisine throughout the month.



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THE Disney STORE

Laurel Park Place
Shop the difference.

Our new 100,000 sq. ft. shopping center, featuring over 100 stores, is located in Farmington on 8th Mile, just one quarter mile east of I-275.

SCHOSTAK

