



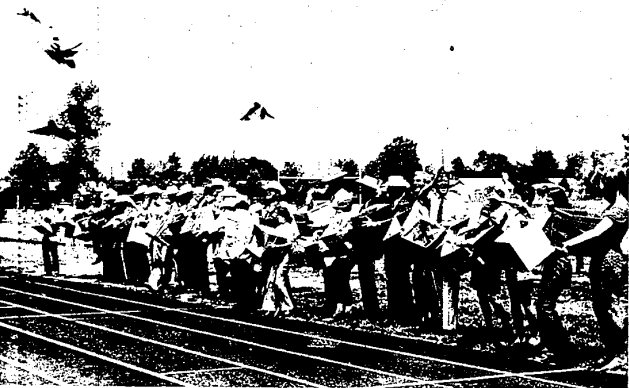
**THE BEGINNING** — Hundreds of helium filled balloons were released to signal the beginning of Thursday's Festival International Pigeon Derby at Farmington Senior High. The finish line was in Belleville at the home of Dr. John Stopa who furnished the racers. Celebrities whose pigeons finished first were: in news-

casters category, George Kendall of radio station WWJ; entertainment, Don Alcorn of radio station WHFI of Troy-Birmingham; weathercaster, Jerry Baker of WXYZ television, Channel 7; and sportscaster, Byron Conacher of CKLW television, Channel 9. (Evert photo)



**SUNDAY'S CONCERT** -- The Max Davey Singers are shown presenting a special outdoor concert for the 1970 Farmington Founders Festival.

This year, the Max Davey Chorale will present another outdoor concert on Sunday, Aug. 1, beginning at 3 p.m. (Evert photo)



**THE RELEASE** — The gun fired and four pigeons flew from the starting gate leaving other contestants trying to coax their birds out of the box. The Festival Pigeon Derby second place winners were: newscaster category, Bill

Fyle of WXYZ radio; entertainment, Art Cervi of CKLW television, Channel 9; weathercaster, Jim Smith, WXYZ television, Channel 9; and sportscaster, Mort Neff, WWJ radio. (Evert photo)



**THURSDAY'S CONCERT** -- Downtown Center echoed with the sweet tones of the Franklin Village Band directed by Dr. Conrad Lam of Weed Creek during the 1970 Festival with numbers played including such favorites as

"Teddy Bear's Picnic" and "The Children's March." The Franklin Band will present its concert this year on Thursday, July 29, beginning at 7:15 p.m. in the Downtown Farmington Center area. (Evert photo)



**HEADING HOME** — The large number of pigeons released at Farmington Senior High are shown beginning the long trek home to Belleville. The Festival International Pigeon Derby was held Thursday as a prelude to Festival festivities starting this week. Third place winners in

the various categories were: John Webster, WCAR radio, newscaster; J. Roberts, WJR radio, entertainer; Jerry Hodak, WJBK television, Channel 2, weathercaster; and Don Daley, CKLW television, Channel 9, sportscaster. (Evert photo)



**GOVERNOR'S GREETING** -- Gov. William Milliken, while visiting the 1969 Farmington Founders Festival, stops to meet Mrs. Ed Miller who probably wouldn't have met the governor except she was manning the GOP booth for the festival.



**ROYALTY MEETS** — When royalty meets, here is the attractive result. The first Miss Farmington (1928) now Mrs. Howard Middlewood of Livonia is shown with Miss Farmington Founders Festival of 1966, Deborah Mann.

# Festival Recalls Memory Of Stewed Rabbit

The three-day annual Farmington Founders Festival gets underway Thursday and the task of publicizing the many events has prompted memories from my childhood of the annual Saginaw County Fair. The county fair was the biggest thing of the year and you have to have lived in a rural area in a previous decade to appreciate why. BECAUSE WE were a distance from the "big city," Saginaw, amusement and recreation was created, not

furnished. Fun was plentiful but was spontaneous and lacking in the type of glamour furnished by festivals and fairs. Trips to the city were only taken on Saturdays when mom and dad packed us into the backseat and headed for the A&F. We'd spend a couple hours in the parking lot while the folks picked up the groceries and were perfectly content to wait, knowing what would be next. The next stop was to Parker's Dairy, a local thriving enterprise, where enough milk for the next week would be purchased and then an ice cream cone — double dip!

For variety, sometimes the family auto would stop at the A&W for a root beer. Then, the "Dairy Queens" were introduced to the area and what a thrill that was: My dad perpetuated a myth that these miracle whips were filled with air and would evaporate within 30 seconds in the

backseat of a car and, therefore, must be eaten with due speed. BUT THE county fair was an entirely different kind of entertainment. It was anticipated with excitement for weeks ahead, just like the end of school. At first, it was the thrill of going on carnival rides which only came to town with the

fair. Later, as we became active in 4-H, there were exhibits to enter and the anxious wait to find out if it would be a blue or red ribbon. Although we had lots of fun on the rides, the midway and games were a strict taboo. Each year, my parents gave us strict instructions not to walk through the midway and, expectably, not to spend money throwing balls at pop bottles. My folks believed gambling was immoral and to be

avoided entirely and did not draw any lines of distinction between penny poker or pitching softballs and roulette or high stake blackjack. I can still remember sneaking a walk down the midway and all the guilt feelings that accompanied that walk. THE 4-H CLUB furnished us with a once a year trip to Tiger Stadium or to East Lansing to see the Spartans play. Then came trips to the Detroit Zoo or Greenfield Village, Bob-Lo,

etc., but the fair never lost its glamour. Particularly glamorous was the year my rabbit won a blue ribbon. He was treated like a prince until my father's job required my family's transfer to the Detroit area and the rabbit was left behind to sire a few litters before finding himself in a stew one day. The Founders Festival may bring visions of roasted ox or fried chicken to some but, for this writer, it recalls a vision of stewed rabbit.

**Daniels Den**  
By EMORY DANIELS