

Family Buggy Bounces Back; Council Wants 12 Mile Review

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Hills council decided to risk some spot zoning backlash to give approval to Donald Payne's "dream" Monday.

Payne received unanimous approval for B-2 zoning for the site on 12 Mile Road east of Orchard Lake now occupied by a 100-year-old farmhouse and carriage house.

Payne plans to convert the building to a restaurant with a similar theme to the

"Family Buggy" he operates in Detroit.

A crowd packed the council chamber and stayed until well after midnight through several hours of debate before greeting the decision with wild cheers.

The appeal of the decision to the crowd apparently was the planned preservation of the character of the site, which is an area which the city planning commission concedes will eventually be rezoned for some kind of development.

In a second motion, the

city council recommended the planners study the area for rezoning to office use from the farmhouse west to Orchard Lake.

Payne, after two defeats before the planning commission, despite sympathy for his proposal, sent letters city-wide and took out newspaper advertisements appealing for popular support for his plans.

The result was about 100 people in the council chambers, who, in a twist for zoning cases, applauded loudly every time the council ap-

peared to be favoring the rezoning.

Payne's proposal would mean adding a large addition onto the back of the house in the same architectural style.

Payne also owns two lots between the building and the subdivision behind it, which remained residential, and which he promised would remain an orchard, screening the neighborhood.

The debate centered on the future of 12 Mile Road in the area.

"This is one of those nostalgic commercial ventures

which are popular," Councilman Frederick Lichtman said.

"But that is not the issue." The council's concern was that (a) the zoning would set a precedent for 12 Mile Road, encouraging more business requests in an area slated for office and multiple, and (b) there was no guarantee the restaurant would be built.

Attorney James Ginn, representing Payne, argued the area would eventually be rezoned, and put it as a choice between the restaurant and either offices or multiples.



THIS IS 1/19th of the Leeds Youth Orchestra which will perform two free concerts in Farmington. The 76-piece group from England will be heard at a special concert at 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, in Harrison High School Auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile. The second concert will be in the Downtown Shopping Center, Grand River and Farmington Roads, at 8:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, as part of the annual Farmington Founders Festival. The group will spend a week in Farmington staying with local host families.

Tintype Photographer

Photo Process Rediscovered

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON
Those great nostalgia items, tintypes, are on the revival road. A lot of credit for the "second time around" popularity must go to Farmington commercial photographer, Doug Campbell, 3815 Oakland.

Campbell got interested when he was in photographic sales for the Kodak company. This led to collecting antique cameras. He found a story on the Greenfield Village tintype studio, decided to investigate.

He learned the studio had flourished until the tintype photographer died in the 1950s taking the formulas for the process with him. The studio had never been reopened.

The Farmington photographer worked for two summers in Greenfield Village. By trial and error he perfected his own formulas.

A tin plate covered with a black enamel coating (called Japanese) is used. When the

subject is posed and ready, a small amount of iodized collodion is poured on the plate which is then lowered into a bath of silver nitrate for one minute. While still wet, it is inserted in the film holder. Exposure time in sunlight is from three to 10 seconds.

After exposure, the wet plate is processed—developed, fixed, washed, dried over an alcohol burner and finally, coated with varnish. It takes about 10 minutes from start to finish.

Speed was one reason for the tintype's popularity from about 1855 to the 1880s. During the Civil War, tintypes were in great demand by the soldiers. A young soldier who wanted to send a picture of himself in uniform to his family and relatives could get four, three-quarter by one inch pictures for 50 cents.

The photographer used a "carte de visite" camera which had multiple lenses. Anywhere from four to more than 20 were mounted in one camera. All took the same

picture on the plate. These were later cut apart. There is no negative in the tintype process, the picture being produced directly on the plate with a chemical process. The image is always reversed.

Campbell uses one of several antique cameras for his work. One of them is a 1860 Anthony "carte de visite."

Once he got the process perfected, he began to devote summers to tintyping. With his wife, Beth, and children, Chris, 8; Kim, 7, and Sally, 3, he loads cameras and equipment into the family camper van and heads for festivals and art fairs to set up shop.

He takes tintypes of all comers at \$10 for a five by seven. Recently he bought out an old photographic studio in Tannersville, N.Y. With the equipment, there was a scenic backdrop of the Catskills.

So now, the Campbells provide an authentic backdrop along with period costumes and original equipment for their subjects.

The growing collection fits beautifully in the Farmington home atmosphere. The Oakland St. house was built in 1873. Beth Campbell and his wife are antique collectors. They once had an antique store in Farmington, but didn't like being tied down.

The 1873 house is furnished in American primitives in a corner of the living room, there is a delicate posing chair covered in beige dam-

ask and trimmed with matching fringe.

Fastened to the head-high narrow back are head clamps, to make sure the subject doesn't jiggle during exposure. A children's posing chair and a baby posing chair were part of the recently acquired New York collection.

While the process is simple to Campbell now, it wasn't always so. He says, "When I was trying to learn how to do it, I read every old book on the subject."

"But the scientific literature then was not as absolute as now. They printed everything. An explanation of a process in one chapter would be contradicted in the next."

"They were also lax in defining amounts—a little of this, some of that, type of thing. The names of the chemicals were not clear so I had to sit down and try everything."

The iodized collodion was the one which presented the most problems. It was trial and error. Some solutions would work for a day or two and then break up chemically.

Next weekend, the Campbells will have a tintype booth at the Farmington Founders Festival. It will be draped with some newly acquired authentic red, white and blue Civil War bunting. Beth Campbell helps in the booth, seeing that the subjects are costumed to their

liking and putting on the final varnish coat.

"Tintypes are very durable," Campbell says. "The varnish protects them from scratching and makes them permanent."

The tintype process is generally credited to Scott Archer in 1855. It was most popular with the lower classes, Campbell says. The elite preferred the slower, more expensive Daguerotypes.

The film for the latter was a light sensitive silver coated metal plate. After exposure, it could be left in the camera and developed a week or so later.

On Sept. 27 and 28, Campbell will be a guest at a symposium sponsored by the George Eastman School, Rochester, N.Y. He will demonstrate the tintype technique.

For three weeks this summer, the family traveled through New England while Campbell took tintypes of historic scenes. He is preparing these for the Smithsonian Institute's Hall of Photography which features contemporary photographers using old processes.



DOUG CAMPBELL poses for a conventional picture with his tintype equipment. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Libraries At Festival

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Libraries will sponsor a booth in downtown Farmington at the Founders Festival, along with the Farmington Friends of the Library.

Applications for library cards, bookmarks and a special edition of the "Footnotes" with a game page for children will be distributed.

The booth will provide an opportunity for Farmington residents to find out about the library services and the Friends organization.

Kendallwood Rotary Booth

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She Celebrates 90th Birthday

FARMINGTON

Relatives and friends from as far away as Texas and Arizona gathered in Farmington to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Mathilde Jorgensen July 14.

Among the celebrants were Mrs. Jorgensen's four children with their husbands and wives, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Still active despite her age, Mrs. Jorgensen enjoys gardening, crocheting, knitting, sewing and card playing. She winters in Florida and spends the summers with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schriber of Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Jorgensen is a native of Denmark and the party, appropriately, was held at the Danish Club in Redford.

She came to the United States in 1906 and lived in Detroit with her husband, the late Frederick Jorgensen, also a native of Denmark.

The couple moved to Farmington Township in April 1918, making their home on Eight Mile Road.



MRS. MATHILDE JORGENSEN

He later opened the Jorgensen Tool and Gauge Co. at the same address, operating the business until his death in 1944.

Hosting the party besides the Schribers were the other Jorgensen children, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Jorgensen of Mesa, Ariz.; Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Coe of Farmington Hills and Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson of Cheboygan.

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