

State Police Post Sets Plans For Michigan Week Open House

The Michigan State Police will hold their seventh annual observance of Michigan Week with an open house at all posts on Hospitality Day, May 23, according to Sergeant Adolph Ploehn, commanding officer of the Detroit post.

In addition, the state flag as well as the United States flag will be flown all during the week, which runs from May 19 to 27.

VISITING HOURS at the Detroit post will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A special symposium is extended to the public to examine the equipment and facilities and find out how the department operates. Visitors will be escorted on tours by officers.

"Visitors are always welcome at the post, but open house provides a special opportunity to find out how a post is operated," said Ploehn. "They will learn how we function and the services we perform. Questions are invited and there will be no exhibit."

"To those who may not know the location, the Detroit post is situated at 7 Mile and Grand River and is easily identified. We'll be wanting to see you. A reminder that open house will be held Tuesday, May 21, at Detroit post of the State Police as part of the observance of Michigan Week has been given by Sgt. Ploehn, commanding officer.

Similar programs will be held

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Farmington youngster was among 130 of Michigan's top safety patrol leaders who toured the nation's capital and visited the office of U.S. Senator Patrick McNamara as guests of Automobile Club of Michigan on May 10.

Shown with the Senator are (l-r): Charles Phaneuf, St. Columbian School, Birmingham; Jack Grulke, Southfield School, Southfield; and Donald Sharpe, Ten Mile Elementary School, Farmington.

Brief History of Early Farmington Settlement

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a brief history of the early settlement and development of Farmington as prepared by Harley Walters for presentation recently on a radio program "Salute to Farmington."

Walters, a native of the Farmington area and longtime manager of the Detroit Edison Company, has been very interested in local history for some years.

Farmington was one of the first, if not the original Quaker settlement in Michigan. The early pioneer families came here from Farmington, New York, from which the town received its present name. The name is printed on early maps as Polverville, as it was named for its founder in 1824. The names of other families are inscribed on the tombstones in the Old Quaker Cemetery on Gill Road.

At that time the land was covered with dense forests and wild animals were plentiful. A well worn Indian trail followed the route of the present Shawnee Road and hands of Indians often traveled through here. Being a good neighbor had real meaning, even though the nearest one might live a mile away. Clearing the ground, building cabins and harvesting crops, was accomplished only with the aid of horses, hand tools and co-operating the strength and ability of one's neighbors. Whenever storm, sickness or injury struck, people were dependent on each other for help.

TIE CLEARED land was found productive for vegetables, grain and fruit trees, the forerunner of our large apple orchards. Soon three water power grange mills were built along Grange Creek, near Power Road, Farmington Road and Drake Road. The one at Drake Road was in Pernambuco Hollow, one

of the beauty spots near Farmington. The miller, who had formerly been a sailor named it Pernambuco Hollow for a seaport which he had liked in Brazil.

Farmington's first one room school was built near the McGee Hill in 1835, at a cost of \$375. The Universalist Church in 1833 and with the exception of a new entrance, remains one of our outstanding buildings. The Baptist Church was dedicated in 1861 but has since had many alterations.

During the night of October 9, 1872, fire started in one of the stores on Main Street and only by the fast action of tearing a house down in its path was the town saved. Many historical records were lost in the fire. Roads were nothing more than trails and often impassable. As farm production increased, transportation to market was a problem, until the Detroit-Farmington Plank Road was built. Planks were laid end to end, wide enough apart for wagon wheels.

Roads were often shifted out of place during the rainy season. Loaded wagons had the rights of way and a toll of 2 cents a mile was collected at each toll place between here and Detroit. Stage coaches used this road and Botsford Inn was a regular stop. Botsford Inn had been built as a residence in 1828 and later converted to an inn. It is one of the oldest hostilities operating in Michigan.

THE TOWN HALL, built in 1876, became the center of some social activity, such as dances and home talent shows. The Masonic Lodge occupied the second floor as they have since. It is one of the few town halls remaining and the Farmington Historical Society is making an effort to preserve it as a link with the past.

Farmington's first newspaper, The Enterprise, was started in 1888. During the first 64 years there hadn't been much to read and about the only entertainment was a few traveling medicine shows or a caravan of gypsies.

to cause a little excitement. Farmington Hotel Mill was built in 1898 and was operated with steam, which proved more dependable than water power for all seasons of the year and doomed the old mills.

Things were on the move during the early 1900's, even though the population had increased to only slightly over 600 people. Telephone service was available both day and night. It was just a matter of awakening the night operator to put a call through after midnight. The Detroit-Union Electric Railway furnished hourly passenger and daily freight service to Detroit and surrounding communities.

THE OWEN HOUSE at Farmington Road and Grand River was filled to capacity; a favorite stopover for traveling men. Fred M. Warner, a native son, was serving three terms as Governor of Michigan and his cheese factory and other businesses were expanding here. There were 16,000 automobiles in the state and one of our doctors had purchased a Cartier, after near disastrous driving instruction from a factory representative.

Electric power lines were coming out Grand River and Farmington were busy tearing up floors for wiring their homes and installing hideous looking fixtures in preparation for the light up ceremony, which took place on Saturday night, October 28, 1911.

Electricity meant the end of cleaning lamp chimneys or having one's teeth drilled with a foot treadle apparatus and soon we were enjoying the Perils of Pauline and other silent movies. The village government after much debate had made the decision to plunge the community into a \$15,000 debt for a central water system complete with wooden water mains.

More Civil War veterans were riding to the cemetery each year than were marching in the Decoration Day parade and it would require pages just to mention the good people I have known during my 35 years in Farmington.

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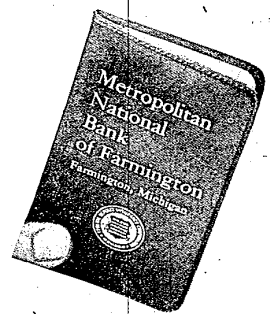
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Wood Creek Farms Village

ANNE M. PHILLIPS

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Mex O'Shaughnessy flow east, following list of needed items from the bulletin board of the Pontiac State Hospital: full length mirror; 2 sewing machines, discarded; Plaines, N.Y. Mex's sister was one celebrating her silver jubilee; two of the teachers Mex had when attending the Good Counsel Academy celebrated their long golden jubilees; and there was one diamond (75 year) jubilee. A solemn high mass at 10:30 a.m. was followed by dinner.

This past weekend the O'Shaughnessys spent in South Bend, Indiana at Notre Dame where they had the Old Times football game. Mex and Bride drove over with Denis and his wife, Cathy, who live in Oak Park. Coleman had been in Chicago all week on business and drove down to join them there. The varsity team play the old timers and the graduates of the past few years who still feel able to play the game - as they tired freshmen took their places which gave Brian a chance to get in to the game for four plays.

Monday the Franklin Branch of the National Farm and Garden Association held their annual luncheon and election of officers at Pine Knob. Of course quite a few Wood Creekers attended.

THIS IS TO REMIND you that this Saturday, May 18 this group are holding their annual flower show from 2 - 8 in the social hall of the Franklin Community Church.

Theresa McKay took the fol-

lowing list of needed items from the bulletin board of the Pontiac State Hospital: full length mirror; 2 sewing machines, discarded; Plaines, N.Y. Mex's sister was one celebrating her silver jubilee; two of the teachers Mex had when attending the Good Counsel Academy celebrated their long golden jubilees; and there was one diamond (75 year) jubilee. A solemn high mass at 10:30 a.m. was followed by dinner.

The North Farmington High Parents Association will meet next Tuesday, May 21, at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria of the N. Farmington High School. There will be a panel discussion by 4 speakers on the subject 'Youth Activities Forum.'

A week from Saturday, May 25, is the Wood Creek annual spring dinner dance. This is to tell you that the deadline for making your reservation is next Wednesday, May 22.

My husband just phoned that an out-of-town college friend will be our overnight guest tonight - Monday. I must bring this column to an immediate close and get ready for this event.

CLOSE-QUARTER TIP
When a regular saw frame will not fit into a work area requiring a hacksaw cut, split a heavy dowel in half lengthwise, insert blade and wrap dowel and sandwiched blade with friction tape, to provide a workable temporary handle.

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