

Almost Get Lighted Field

Over the past 15 or more years there has been talk on repeated occasions about the possibility of providing Farmington with a lighted football and athletic field.

What many people may not know is the fact that in the Spring of 1950 a proposal to provide a lighted athletic field was placed to a vote of the people and was rejected by a slim 36 vote margin.

The proposed location for the lighted field was on city-owned property on Gill Road near Nine Mile.

Voters were asked to approve a one mill (\$1.00 per \$100 valuation) tax levy for two years to underwrite the cost of providing the field.

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GR. 6-0880

Happy Birthday FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE!



Our best wishes to the Farmington Enterprise on their 75th Birthday. Your policies and presentation of the news have played an important part in the orderly and fine development of the city of Farmington and the surrounding townships.

DETROIT EDISON

Farmington Has Interesting Early History

Early Founders Were Real Pioneer Settlers

The history of Farmington City and Township from its early founding in 1824 up until the date of the establishment of a city form of government locally in late 1925 is very interesting and informative.

The story as we are presenting here has been printed a number of times in the past in pretty much the same form. We feel, however, that there are perhaps many newcomers to the community who have not yet seen or read the story. Many older residents who have more than likely read the story before have probably, much like us, forgotten many of the details.

In May, 1824, a party of adventurers led by Arthur Power and his several sons left their home in Farmington, New York, and traveled to Detroit. After two days hard traveling they reached their goal. The river offered an excellent location for a grist mill and saw mill, there was an abundance of standing timber for the construction of buildings and there was a good supply of food in the small game and wild fowl. Arthur Power, his grist mill made camp, gave the name of their former home to their new settlement, and so founded Farmington, Michigan.

These first settlers were closely followed by another party from New York State, among them the Warner family with their young son, P. Dean. They traveled by boat to Detroit and then took the overland route via Dearborn to Farmington.

Churches and Schools
Elkanah Comstock, traveling preacher from the Baptist church in Potsdam, visited Farmington in 1824 and saw that a place of worship was established. The Methodist built their church in 1824 on the hill. This little white church was the home of the Methodists for 76 years, until the night in 1920 when it burned to the ground. Two years after the fire their building on Warner Avenue at Grand River was dedicated. It was in 1832 that



FARMINGTON'S MAIN STREET as it looked in the year 1888 when The Farmington Enterprise first came into being. Consisted of nine or ten stores along the north side of Grand River Avenue just east of Farmington Road. Grand River Ave.

ing a gap which the flames could not leap, the damage would have been far greater. As it was, the fire rained the Smith Store, Dr. Woodman's drug store, the stores of W. B. Moore and Porter Shepard, the Masonic Hall and the Township office building.

Town Hall Built
A new Town Hall was built in 1876. At the east end of the park was the wagon and blacksmith shop of John P. Eisenford, and this was removed when the Town Hall was erected. The drug store that was burned in the fire was the first school place in Farmington and stood where the former Municipal Building is now. Dr. Woodman was later appointed postmaster in 1885. Succeeding postmasters were M. B. Pierce, 1889; E. C. Grace, 1893; C. H. McGee in 1913. Mail was delivered to Farmington from Dearborn by stage until the coach stage was discontinued. A route line was established from Beech, Michigan, serving Farmington, Clarencville, Redford and Bell Branch.

Almost all goods sold in Farmington were hauled from Detroit by Samuel Blanchard. He would make 2 trips a week, each trip being a two-day expedition. For most of the distance between Farmington and Detroit, Grand River was laid with oak pilings, way out in single lane. Detroit-bound traffic had the right-of-way, and out-bound vehicles had to get in line to the mud to clear the lane.

Have A Toll Road
There were four toll roads on the way in the 1870's, one at the Farmington - Redford line, one at Mill Road, another at Monnier Road and a fourth at Warner Rd. The toll-charger for a two-horse vehicle was 50 cents per mile. For a loaded wagon, a one-way trip took from four to six hours, but a single buggy with a good driver could make it in only 3 hours.

In the boom days of the 1870's a farm hand could expect to be paid \$20 a month, plus his food and keep for his work. Day laborers were paid about \$1 for a workday of ten to 12 hours. A carpenter's rate was 15c an hour, brickmasons 20c an hour. Fresh eggs were priced at 10c a dozen, butter sold for 20c a pound; pork, 8c to 10c a pound; the best steaks, 25c a pound; good cut of beef, 15c a pound. Very few homes were more than \$1,000 and a house and garden rented for about \$100 a year.

Business Activities
The first newspaper was printed on November 2, 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer. The Enterprise was a hand made newspaper and Fred Cook was a printer's devil, whose chief task

Helped Stuff Early Papers

One of the early settlers in Farmington who still resides here is Mrs. Bessie Prindle who resides at 2141 Main Street. She is a direct descendant of Arthur Power, this community's founder. He was her great, great-grandfather.

Mrs. Prindle relates that she recalls quite well the early days in the history of The Farmington Enterprise. She was a personal friend of a daughter of Edgar Bloomer, the paper's founder.

Every Thursday after school and sometimes into the night, she recalled, there was paper stuffing that had to be done and the task fell upon the Bloomer children. Mrs. Prindle stated that many times she used to go over to the small newspaper office and help the Bloomer children with the paper stuffing job.

was known as the Detroit to Howell Plank Road at that time. There were wood walks, wood canopies out over the fronts of the stores and hitching posts for the horses back in those days.

One of Farmington's early practitioners was Dr. J. J. Moore, who built the home later occupied by the Amos Otis family. His son, Harry W., had a general merchandising business in the '90's and later became City Clerk.

In 1884 Fred M. Warner, the boy who had been adopted by P. Dean Warner, had a hardware store and was manager of the Farmington and Franklin County Company, having established the Warner Dairy Co. in 1892. He was also a partner with Fred Cook and C. L. W. Wilber in what was listed as a "mercantile establishment."

P. Dean Warner at this time was a private banker. James J. Hogle had a drug store, L. W. Sowles was in the dry goods business. Henry W. Lee was a harness maker. Custom-made boots and shoes were the specialty of H. W. Habermehl.

After the turn of the century, See EARLY FARMINGTON Page 4C, Column 6

Farmington Insurance Oldest Local Business

Only recently this local insurance firm moved into the modern new facilities where they are now located.

The oldest business in Farmington today still bearing its original name is, to the best of our knowledge, The Farmington Insurance Agency located on Grand River Avenue between the Metropolitan Bank building and a C. H. Himmelspach's place.

The first owners of the insurance business bearing this name were Cobb and Warner who started up the business in January of 1888. In 1870 P. Dean Warner took over the business and continued to sell insurance in this area for the next 32 years.

In 1902 Clinton W. Wilber took over the business followed by A. A. Bruder in 1911 and Edgar R. Bloomer in 1913.

John M. Clappison, one of the present owners, took over the business on May 12, 1962 and has continued to build and expand the business since this time. As the business grew Bill Conroy was taken into partnership with Clappison.

A. Otis Starts First Lumber Business Here

Farmington's first lumber and coal business establishment was started here just after the turn of the century by Amos Otis. He started his small business here dealing not only in lumber and coal, but also in cement blocks, tile and bricks.

Otis was born in Wayne County in 1874 and did some farming in 1871 before deciding to go into the building business and then later into the lumber and coal business.

After operating his business here for about ten years, Otis sold out to a group who officially formed the Farmington Lumber and Coal Co. A reprint of the advertisement announcing the change of ownership of the business at that time appears in an advertisement on this page of the paper.

The Farmington Enterprise

1888 Official Publication for Farmington City and Township 1963
75th ANNIVERSARY

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1963 SECTION C

Community Growth Starts in 1945; Enterprise Grows With It

Up until the early part of 1940, Farmington was still pretty much of a quiet rural community. The official 1940 population in the City stood at 4,510 and the Township population at 5,693 for a total community population of 7,203.

The official 1960 population figures showed the combined population of Farmington City and Township to be slightly over 30,000 or a little more than four times as great as the population of the community in 1940.

The big circulation increase, 10,000 households in the community between 1951 and 1958 was natural since this was also the period of exceptionally rapid residential growth in the community.

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We at The Enterprise are extremely proud of the fact that our growth in paid circulation has paralleled the community's growth and that our paid circulation percentage of a little better than 65 per cent is being maintained.

Few newspapers in rapidly growing suburban communities such as ours can boast as high a percentage of benefited paid subscribers as we are now maintaining.

POPULATION projections for Farmington are both gratifying and challenging to us. By 1970 a community population of over 60,000 is being predicted and by 1980 a population of around 77,000.

Our goal in the years ahead will be to continue to improve upon the quality of The Farmington Enterprise as the official and best newspaper for the community.

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THE Danish Inn
COCKTAIL LOUNGE and RESTAURANT

32305 GRAND RIVER Ave.
AT BROOKDALE
• BUFFETS & NOONDAY LUNCHEONS
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For Reservations Call GR. 6-5320 or KE. 4-8300
Stan and Betty Nielsen
YOUR HOST AND HOSTESS
(Open Monday thru Saturday - Closed Sundays)

HERE IS HOW IT ALL STARTED

THE NEW LUMBER FIRM 48 YEARS AGO
AT THE SAME OLD PLACE, ON A SQUARE DEAL PLAN.
WITH PRICES LOWER THAN OTHERS

Having purchased the business of AMOS OTIS, we wish to invite all of the customers and all the new ones to call and get acquainted with us, and let us show you we are a position to serve you BETTER than any one else in this part of the country. Having years of experience in the lumber and coal business, and having in the large quantity we do, we get the BEST at the LOWEST prices, we give our customers the best benefit, and we expect to deal in the same straightforward manner as our predecessor, so you need anything in the line of:

Lumber, Coal, Lime, Cement, Drain Tile, Sash, Doors, Sewer Pipe, Cement Blocks, Plaster, Fence Posts, Etc., we can make it to your advantage to deal with us. LET US HAVE THE PLEASURE MEETING YOU.

Mr. Ralph Hogle, who has been with Mr. Otis for some time, remains with the new firm.
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
Farmington Lumber & Coal Co.
AMOS OTIS

We Are Proud of Our Long History Of Serving the Lumber and Supply Needs of Our Community. Farmington's Story is Our Story... As Farmington Has Grown... We Have Grown.

We Are Proud, Too, of Being One of The Enterprise's Oldest Continuous Advertisers. Their Record of Service to the Residents and Businesses of Our Community Has Helped make Farmington a Better Place to Live and Work in.

We Join in Wishing The ENTERPRISE a HAPPY 75th!

Still Doing Business at the Same Old Stand

FARMINGTON LUMBER Co.
SUCCESSORS TO AMOS OTIS
32800 GRAND RIVER AVE., FARMINGTON GR. 4-4015

P.S. WE WISH WE STILL HAD A FEW OF THOSE UNDERSIZED FENCE POSTS AT 13c TO CLOSE OUT QUICK