



19th Century Song Calls Yankee Farmers To Area

In the 1830s, when the Farmington area was first settled, Michigan was the most popular spot for emigrants in the nation. A favorite song that was probably sung by early Farmingtonites went like this:

"Come all you Yankee farmers, who'd like to change your lot,
Who've spunk enough to travel beyond your native spot,
And leave the village where pa and ma do stay,
Come, follow me and settle in Michi-gan-i-a."

"What country ever grewed up so great in little time,
Just popping from the nursery right into-like its prime?
When Uncle Sam did wean her, 'twas but the other day,
And now she's quite a lady, this Michi-gan-i-a."

"Then come, ye Yankee farmers, who've nettle hearts like me,
And elbow grease in plenty to bow the forest tree,
Come take a quarter section, and I'll be bound to say,
This country takes the rag off, this Michi-gan-i-a."

Ferris Adds Technical Course

BIG RAPIDS--Addition of a specialization in refrigeration, heating, and air conditioning to the trade-technical education program has been announced by Ferris State College. Under the program, qualified students who have completed six quarters of coursework in refrigeration, heating and air conditioning at Ferris can work toward the bachelor of science degree in trade-technical education.

Their studies will include both an internship in industry and student teaching in the Ferris refrigeration, heating, and air conditioning classroom laboratories. Successful completion of the requirements for the B.S. degree will prepare the graduates to teach in trade schools, community colleges and technical institutes, as well as in high schools and industry related schools.

Festival Has Early Origins In Gala Days

For something like 20 years Farmington was the place to come for a good time over Labor Day.

During that era, thousands of people jammed the town for the Gala Days staged by the local American Legion Post. The days always took place over Labor Day, with the first being held in 1922.

EVENTS started out bright and early. Legionnaires fired a salute at 7 a.m. This was followed by a baseball game, a children's parade at noon and another ball game in the afternoon.

Carl Goss, 2720 Brookdale, who remembers the events vividly, says there was always a little on-the-side betting as to who would win the games. To stage the various activities, Farmington Rd. was closed from Oakland to Mill. Ladies of the Legion Auxiliary always had a stand set up in front of Town Hall, serving hot dogs, hamburgers and pop. They'd usually be there all day cooking up food for the throngs of visitors who would turn out with the populace.

Eventually the affair was moved to Maple and Grand River which was then vacant property. A big carnival was always set up on this site, much to the enjoyment of the youngsters. No one but the local Legion was involved in the event. According to Goss, the Legion made several thousand dollars with its Gala Days over the years. He isn't certain why the event was no longer held after World War II. Whatever the reason, the Legion set a precedent for today's Founders Festival. It is probable that many of the hundreds who come to town for the Festival are simply following a habit pattern set up during 1922-44 when they came for Gala Days.

Now Summer Theater Guide Is Available

LANSING--The curtain is up on Michigan's "come as you are" theater season as thespians, amateur and professional, offer current hit plays, old standards and musicals in barns, tents and arenas.

Located throughout both peninsulas, the theaters are listed in the 1967 edition of the Michigan Guide to Summer Theaters, compiled and published by the Michigan Tourist Council.

Included in the listings are locations, curtain times, player system and reservation information for 20 theaters. Not listed, but presenting drama in a new theater from Aug. 3 to Sept. 3, is the Blue Valley Summer Theatre near Reed City.

Copies of the Summer Theater Guide are available without charge from the Michigan Tourist Council, Lansing, Mich. 48926.

BEAT THE TOYS

Encourage your young child to act out his hostilities and jealousy on toys or dolls, not on other children, advise family life specialists at MSU. Also, help him talk out his feelings. In addition, give him all the time and affection he needs--and you can possibly spare.



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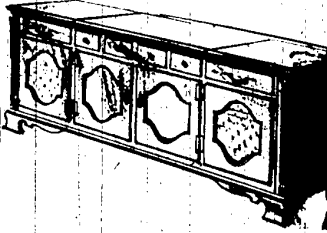
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