



AMERICAN LEGION officials joining in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Groves-Walker American Legion Post are (from left) George Johnson, Michigan State commander;

Roman Belobranch, senior vice commander of the Farmington post; and Jay Farrell, 18th district commander and member of the Farmington post. (Evert photo)



JOE DE UREINDT, a lifetime member of the Farmington Groves-Walker American Legion Post, shows off the cake that marked the 50th anniversary of the post. The celebration attracted more than 200 people at the Nov. 11 celebration. (Evert photo)



SARKIS MEKJIAN, a World War I veteran and 40 year member of the Groves-Walker American Legion Post, joined in the celebration of the posts 50th anniversary Nov. 11. (Evert photo)

American Legion Post Celebrates First '50'

By STEVE BARNABY

FARMINGTON
To many of Farmington's World War I veterans, duty and comradeship didn't end with the completion of their tour of duty so they gathered together in 1922 to form Groves - Walker American Legion Post No. 346.

Saturday night, more than 200 persons gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the post.

THOSE EARLY post homes were a far cry from the modern facilities which exist today and include a modern kitchen, carpeting and air conditioning.

The Farmington veterans

found it an arduous task to travel to the Detroit Legion post 50 years ago so they met to form their own post.

These first years saw the members search for a permanent home. They went from the east end of the Water Works Building on Liberty to the "little log cabin" used in the 1924 village centennial celebration.

In 1929, increased membership forced them to move to a two story house at 33109 Grand River.

In 1948, they moved to the location of their permanent home, which at the time wasn't exactly paradise.

Post historian Fordan Niles described the condition of the hall.

"There was no heat in the

building, and the floor was coated with about six inches of ice. There were no chairs, so everyone stood. The meeting was very cold - and very short."

THE POST was named after the first two men from Farmington to be killed in action during "The Great War."

Bertrau Groves was killed in action on Aug. 7, 1918 in the second battle of the Marne.

Lemuel Walker was killed in action on Oct. 11, 1918 near Romagne, France.

Through the years the post has been active in aiding veterans of the wars.

At the outbreak of World War II, Groves - Walker responded by organizing civil defense, and by collecting aluminum scrap that, at one point, stood 12 feet high in a 20 square foot area.

The post also gave each Farmington inductee a send-off party and presented them with a gift of a shaving kit, plus a subscription to the Farmington Enterprise.

In 1951, Governor G. Mennen Williams came to the post to dedicate a bronze plaque which carried all the names of those from Farmington and Farmington Township who had lost their lives in the two world wars.

The Groves - Walker Post and the Farmington VFW collaborated in 1965 to produce the Memorial Day Parade

which has remained a continuing joint effort.

IN 1966, the post helped with the soliciting and contributing of funds for the purchase and erection of the Veterans Memorial sign located in the triangle property to the west of the Masonic Hall.

The Groves - Walker Post boasts six past district commanders, two third zone commanders and six life members.

Above all, the veterans of the post have proved that old soldiers don't really just fade away.

Teeples Gives Farewell Speech

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON
When the last board meeting before Supervisor Earl Teeples stepped out of office ended, the time seemed appropriate for a few words.

"You've been honest, sincere, and trying to do a good job," Trustee David Stader said. "I wish you well." The remarks drew applause from the small audience.

Teeples responded by reading a prepared speech. "Watch all officials carefully," he said.

HE OUTLINED some of his favorite projects, like improving township parks, and issued another warning to "see these projects aren't dropped."

He referred to a rubbish collection plan, consolidating youth services and senior citizen housing, which were other ideas he had presented to the township board.

But mainly he kept up veiled charges of corruption at town hall: "There are many

communities where officials use their power to gain profits."

At one point he referred to "giving these things to the Oakland County Grand Jury."

There is no grand jury convened.

When he finished his comments, there was silence in the room.

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Suit Is Filed Demanding Township Enforce Zoning

FARMINGTON
In an unprecedented move, a Farmington automobile dealership has filed suit against Farmington Township to enforce six zoning or-

dinances which the dealership claims haven't been enforced since 1968.

Roger Peck Chevrolet Inc. is claiming \$100,000 damages in the suit.

Besides the alleged anti-blight violation, the suit alleges that Victory is storing junk automobiles without a license.

The suit also alleges Summerville is storing equipment without proper fencing, illegal sale of camping trailers, failure to

provide a proper driveway or to supply water and sewage facilities.

The Chevrolet dealer filed the suit on the basis that the alleged lack of enforcement of the township ordinances causes the "danger of theft, loss of property value, and detraction of property, buildings and surrounding area."

ATTORNEYS for the plaintiff say the dealership has asked the township to enforce the ordinances, but that no action has been taken by township authorities since the first complaint four years ago.

Harold Rowe, spokesman for the township zoning commission, said the agency was unaware that it had been named in the suit but that it was quite possible that the complaints had been made.

Letter To The Editor

Thanks For Coverage

EDITOR:
We wish to publicly thank the Enterprise and Observer and all the people who supported our tag day on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28 and 29. One of the things that we plan to do with the money is to buy new uniforms for the marching band.

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