

Oldest school site is sought

By W.W. EDGAR
FARMINGTON
The old Nichols school that has weathered the icy blasts of winter and the heated rays of the summer sun for many years, is about to get a new lease on life.
History buffs are hoping the building that has stood forlorn - looking at the corner of 13-mile and Farmington Roads - will be moved to a new location and become one of the focal points of the sesqui-centennial celebration.
Though recognized as the oldest school building in the district no one knows its exact age.
"All we know," Lee Peel, one of the leaders in the plan to restore the building commented, "is that it was built sometime between 1870 and 1880."
The drive to have the building restored and given a place of prominence got its

Democrats are asking for election reform

FARMINGTON -- The Farmington Democratic Club is asking local units of government to consider reforms in election procedures.
The club recently approached the Farmington City Council with two suggestions and anticipates presenting similar proposals to the Farmington Hills council, according to Chairman Aldo Vagnozzi.
The Democrats are asking local clerks to appoint "deputy registrars" to increase the local rolls of registered voters.
Suggested as deputies are precinct delegates and members of party committees. "We feel that that naming of such registrars would lead to vote not only in city elections but also in contests for county, state and national offices," Vagnozzi said.
According to a report from City Manager Robert Deadman, Farmington voters are already 99.5 per cent registered. The city council did not act on the suggestion. The Democrats also want-



COURSES are still open at the Farmington Community Center. Marti Bernstein is teaching a course in jewelry making during this session.

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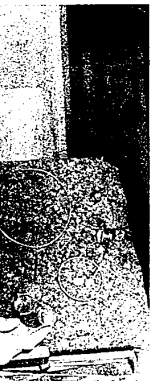
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impetus when Bernard Sherry, the present owner, offered it as a gift to the community provided it was restored and made a memorial.
With this offer Peel, a teacher in the school system, went to work and soon enlisted the support of the Farmington Historical Society. It now is spearheading the fund drive to make the proposed memorial a reality.
The building, one of the last of the old one room school houses in Michigan, is a throwback to the days when the red brick school building was a vital part of Americana. It was soundly built with three layers of brick.
It is a bit weather beaten now, and its roof is in need of repairs, but the Historical Society is confident the necessary funds can be raised.
"It may require about

\$10,000 to \$15,000 to do the job," Peel explained, "but we are going ahead with a study to determine the feasibility of moving it."

Two sites are under consideration for the old school. One is on the present Board of Education property high on the hill - where it again could stand as a beacon. The other site is across the street from its present location on the North Farmington High property.
The present study also is designed to determine the exact age of the building. There are those who claim it was built in 1870. Others say it was 1890. Still others claim the present structure is the third building on the site.
All agree, however, that the old building played a prominent role in the old days. It was where many of the settlers got their education.



A graduate civil engineer, Hammond was formerly property manager in dealership development with the Ford Motor Co. The Hammonds moved here from New Jersey five years ago.

Dunton joins Navy
FARMINGTON
Navy Seaman Recruit Michael J. Dunton of Farmington has graduated from recruit training at the Naval training center, Great Lakes, Ill.
Dunton is the son of Mrs. L. E. Walker of 39077 Rosayton and a 1973 graduate of Novi High School.

8 - Halstead improvements are planned
FARMINGTON -- A State Highway Department project to improve an Oakland County intersection in 1974 has gained approval by the County Road Commission.
The intersection involved is the one at Eight Mile and Halstead Roads.
The Eight Mile - Halstead intersection would be widened and signalized at a cost of \$220,000 to the federal highway fund and \$80,000 to the Oakland Road Commission. The remaining \$50,000 would be shared by the Wayne County Road Commission and the cities of Farmington Hills and Livonia.



NICHOLS SCHOOL may be moved to a permanent home if the Farmington Historical Society is successful. (Evert photo)

Jaycee Dave Hammond is leaving the area

FARMINGTON
A job opportunity will move popular Jaycee Dave Hammond and his family from their Farmington Hills home to Indianapolis in the near future.
Actually, Hammond has already started his job as project manager with Guepel-Demars, a construction management firm. His wife, Carol, and their four children, however, remained behind until their home at 25661 Ridgewood is sold.
A graduate civil engineer, Hammond was formerly property manager in dealership development with the Ford Motor Co. The Hammonds moved here from New Jersey five years ago.
Hammond is past president of the Farmington Jaycees and is now that organization's chairman of the board. He is probably best remembered for his work in bringing a rodeo to the community during the annual Farm-

ington Founders Festival last year.
The event was so successful that it will be repeated again this year, according to John Sprys, current Jaycee president.
The rodeo's success enabled the Jaycees to raise \$10,000 which eventually is returned to the community through various community projects, he added.
Hammond was also instrumental in setting up the Farmington area "Walk for Mankind" last spring. He has also served as president of his subdivision's homeowners association and vice president of the Alameda Elementary School PTA.

Letters to the editor

Our money for transit?

EDITOR:

The Michigan State Highway Dept. recently announced, very proudly, that they have released several million dollars of our gas tax monies for rapid transit.
It appears to me that again the citizens needs are in second place to some nebulous selfish interests for need for publicity.
The actual expenditure is for five separate installations of moving sidewalks. The American public is constantly being reminded that we need more exercise and walking is recommended as a minimum.
The installation of moving

sidewalks would appear to be against the walking recommendations and should be classed as a luxury that gas taxpayers do not need, especially with the current gasoline prices. The need for rapid transit, at least to me, means moving people many miles, not hundreds of feet.
The tax and spend boys in Lansing and Washington, in their hurry to spend, appear to be unconcerned with the citizens' actual needs. Spending for moving sidewalks makes as much sense as allowing roads to deteriorate and be called abandoned minefields viz Drake Rd.
EDWARD K. BENDA
Farmington

Ordinance not passed?

EDITOR:

Mon., Jan. 24, I attended the Farmington Hills City Council meeting. This is the first time I had gone and was very engrossed with the things I heard and saw. It was an interesting and informative meeting.
I was interested in reading what was said about the meeting in your Jan. 16 paper. I was somewhat dismayed to read that Mr. Oates (sic) reviewed the changes in the zoning ordinance. I know Claude Coates, and I was naive enough to assume that reporters checked on names, obviously they don't.
I was interested in the introduction of the obscenity ordinance later in the meeting and gathered from the sense of the meeting that first an ordinance had to be introduced, then passed at a later meeting—that was what the motion said, I thought.
Imagine my surprise to read on page three that the obscenity ordinance had passed. I checked further and discovered that indeed I was right in my assessment of the meeting and your reporter was reporting a fact in large headlines that was indeed wrong.
How do you determine who

covers the council meetings? Don't they have some basic knowledge of government procedures?
Haven't they read the charter? How can you print facts that obviously aren't facts in the widest circulating paper in Farmington? The facts were correct in the "other" paper.
If a woman with little knowledge of government can figure out what is going on, why can't your reporter?
It is your obligation to get the straight facts to the people - otherwise your paper doesn't deserve to be read.
SALLY GAINES
FARMINGTON HILLS
Editor's note: While the misspelling of Claude Coates' name was an unfortunate typesetting error, we stand corrected on the adoption of the ordinance. City ordinances, with the exception of emergency ordinances, must pass the council twice, first at the enactment, and secondly at the adoption. The story referred to erroneously mentioned the "adoption" of the ordinance. An ordinance does not become law until 21 days after the final vote, which may not take place at the same meeting as the first vote, unless it is an emergency measure.)

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