





## Area festivals are booming

PLYMOUTH—Every town in Michigan, it seems, has some kind of festival or carnival or spree and they are drawing big crowds-bigger than predicted by even the most avid proveters.

Just why people flock to these events is hard to tell. Best guess is that they offer a mixture of old-fashioned carnival fun and a nostaligic return to simpler times.

Whatever the reasons, they are doing great. Plymouth's big neighbor to the east, Livonia, finished its annual festival-Spree 74-at the end of June and broke all kinds of records.

More than 50,000 persons jammed Ford Field during the four-day event. Spree organizers sold 542 cases of beer; other organizations taking part sold out by the end of the festival.

The festivals are a popular way to raise money. For instance, Garden City to the south of here found the Chamber of Commerce floundering. The group rallied around a circus and the turnout has helped save the local C of C there.

Farmington is also in the festival business in a big way. Their efforts are spread out over several days and several locations.

The crowds in Farmington get bigger every year. This year was the sesquicentennial-the 150th anniversary-of the founding of Farmington by a small band of Quakers who came there from New York.

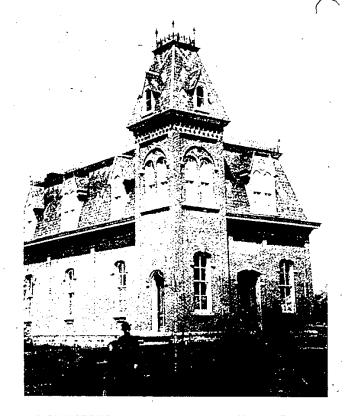
Special events were staged to commemorate the historic year-1824.

Plymouth's founding came about one year later when the first settlers arrived in the area in 1825.

Canton is getting into the festival business this year with its Labor Day weekend fair, which will include a carnival, parade and several special events.

The Plymouth Fall Festival remains unique in that no commercial events mare allowed. Money raised goes to community organizations and the Fall Festival Board.

Be it Plymouth, or Livonia, or Farmington or Garden City-the festivals are booming.



FARMINGTON'S best known landmark, the Masonic Temple at Grand River and Farmington Roads, was the subject of much speculation during the recent sesquicentennial celebration held in Farmington in conjunction with the annual Founders Festival. The building is more than 100 years old and there is some talk of saving it for its historical value. This picture was taken well before the turn of the century