

Tradition

Enterprise founder set pace for future

It was Nov. 2, 1888, and Edgar Bloomer proudly sat back in his desk chair looking at the first edition of the Farmington Enterprise. He skimmed the pages, looking at articles and advertisements alike. It had been more than a struggle, but the first edition was out.

It has been more than 90 years since Farmington's own paper hit the streets. Since then, it has chronicled the history of a proud community.

Sitting in front of his electronic typewriter or computer terminal, surrounded by 20th century technology, the modern journalist wonders how Bloomer would feel about today's newspaper.

Although the name has changed and format has been reworked to meet needs of modern-day readers, the Farmington Observer is proud to identify its lineage with the Enterprise.

AS A MATTER of fact, the En-

terprise name had such an impact that many persons today still refer to the Observer as the Enterprise.

Bloomer was 33 at the time he rushed his first edition out to the streets. He remain with the paper until 1898, when he moved to Sparta and consolidated the Sentinel and Leader newspapers. He died in 1909.

But Bloomer began a tradition of community journalism which still exists today. He believed in producing a newspaper which would serve the interests of the Farmington area while informing residents of matters of interest.

Much of what he wrote in that first edition is pertinent today.

"It is fair to judge of the intelligence of a community by the character of the paper it supports. . . What we wish, then, is that each one, when anything new or interesting comes to his knowl-

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The Enterprise offices were once housed in this building along Grand River. The man in the middle is W.J. Reihard who, for a time, served as editor.

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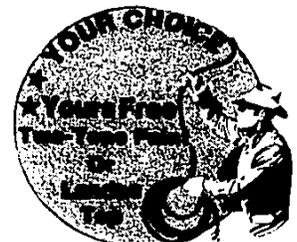
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