

from our readers

Historian protest Victorian pieces

To the editor:
I was recently at the Historical Museum and was appalled at the monu-

Private groups must obey law

To the editor:
Ten years ago Harvard Professor Paul Freund said that passage of the federal Equal Rights Amendment was the wrong way to attempt to solve the legal problems confronting women. How true.

Smith College, located in Northampton, Mass., is the largest private women's college in the country. Legal

Resident thanks city road crews

To the editor:
I would like to take the time to say "Thank You" to all the road crews who worked such tedious hours clearing and plowing the snow in our subdivision and others.

Few people consider the work involved in the drivers' part, their expertise and their exhausting work

mentally out-of-scale Victorian mirror now in the northwest room. It is inappropriate for the location and probably for any location in the house. It is way too big. Pay someone \$100 and have it hauled away — perhaps to the Livingston County Courthouse lobby, or wherever.

counsel for the town of Whately, where the college owns an observatory, has argued before the state Supreme Court that the school should be denied its charitable tax-exempt status because it admits only women. But the lawyer for Smith College argues that the state ERA applies only to actions by the state, not to private schools. He warns that if private action can violate the ERA, there would be terrible consequences to face.

Indeed there would.

Timi Case
Farmington Hills

hours with all the snow this season. Our subdivision was always cleared the same day as the snow fell and then again, a day later. We have absolutely no "man-made" complaints with all this downpour — wish I could say the same about the "downpour" from the heavens.

The sounds and lights of the big snow plow trucks were always a welcome sight and a reliable one too. Thanks again guys. Hang in there and don't consider moving south.

Dodie Harris
Farmington Hills

The huge bookcase, purchased also with gift money from the Farmington Historical Society in Mrs. Edessa Warner Slocum's memory, is also badly misplaced. It is also too big for its present location on the south dining room wall.

If Mrs. Slocum could know what has been bought and wrought in her name, she'd resurrect herself and return for a spring housecleaning. And she'd do it herself, she was that kind of lady.

What distresses me as I see things developing at the museum is what I perceive as a disregard for what the house was like under the Warners. I

New resident is grateful

To the editor:

We hear and read so much bad news, but so little is said of the good. I publicly want to thank all those who aided me when I had an accident in my home on Jan. 19.

First the EMS for their prompt and efficient response. They were quickly followed by the ambulance whose crew, though I didn't use their service, were understanding. My neighbor, Ann, who upon seeing the emergency vehicle in my driveway came over and drove me to Botsford Hospital. The skilled nurses, doctors and the compassionate social worker in the emergency room. Lastly, I want to thank Jan DeJen for the emergency number phone sticker which enabled me to phone for help.

I moved here in December, 1979 and am thankful to be in an area where people take the time to help others, even an ex-New Yorker. What I'm trying to express is my appreciation and heartfelt thanks to both those who I'm now proud to call my friends and the countless strangers who have given me their support and help.

Joan Gray
Farmington Hills

met and talked with Mrs. Slocum on two or three occasions while I was doing my book on Farmington. Not only did I get some insight into her personality — she was a gentle, sweet soul and anything but flamboyant — but also I learned of her father, when he was governor of Michigan and a highly respected business man in Farmington.

I wonder why those who persist in imagining a house that epitomizes Victorian excess and who are decorating the place according to this concept, do not talk with persons who knew the house at the time of the Warners. Right across the street from the Warner House live Murray and Marguerite Moore. As kids, they played in that house, and, as teens, for example, they listened to the first Victrola that anyone had in Farmington. Surely, there are other persons in the area who knew the Warners and the house.

The Warner House need not become a museum of Victoriana. Rather, in fact, it should become a museum of the

Warners, even if one's individual taste does not happen to coincide with theirs. Further, it should be a repository for artifacts and memorabilia from this community, even if what is available is simple and/or primitive. It is times rather see simple Farmingtonia than pseudo-orientation.

I have seen no newspaper calls for paintings, either antique primitives, or paintings by the many, many contem-

porary Farmington artists who could do some works in the style of the period and on early Farmington subjects. Why not spend some of your thousands of dollars in gifts for some truly Farmington materials?

The Warner House as a memorial to Governor Warner and his family has unique appeal. A house corrupted with Victorian glom will be just another museum. We have many of that ilk in the state and nation already.

Lee S. Peel

Author, Farmington: A Pictorial History

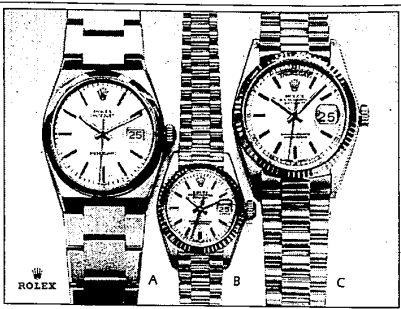
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