

Suburban Life

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Searching for grass roots

Contest encourages original research in local history

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

The second historical research contest, initiated by Farmington Historical Society to encourage original research in Farmington history, is under way.

This year's contest, which follows the format of last year's, takes on the official name of, "The Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest" to honor the Farmington educator, historian and author.

Anyone of any age may join in the grass roots search, digging into his attic, cellar and family records to put together an entry depicting life of an earlier time in Farmington.

Sources for the entries can be personal recollection, interviews, family diaries or letters, old photographs, old paintings or sketches.

The historical society is not interested in receiving anything that can be

looked up in a county record, or any high-level scholarly thesis. What the members are looking for are the every day ways-of-life once experienced here.

BECAUSE HISTORY comes from so many different sources, there are not too many rules to the contest.

About the only one the judges will be strict on has to do with the source of the material. If the source is an interview, for example, the judges will expect to know the name of the person interviewed.

Bibliographies must accompany written entries. Photographs, paintings or sketches must be captioned. But a source could also be an unmarked box found in an attic.

Dates are not important. Contestants do not have to worry about pinning anything down to a particular decade because, no matter whether it took place 20 or 120 years ago, it is still part of the history of Farmington.

AS FOR audio tapes, VHS video tapes, 35mm slides, photographs, objects, or text of any length, every effort will be made to return the material to the contestant if the contestant requests that.

To get potential contenders thinking about their entry, the society suggests pondering on street and place names, the dairy and cheese industries, the flour and lumber mills, the English and German settlements here, the orchards, the inns, the winery, schools and churches.

Prizes will be awarded for elementary school entries, middle school entries, high school entries, and entries from college students and adults.

THE FIRST and second "Overall

Awards" last year went to two North Farmington High School students.

Ross A. Jacobs took the first prize of \$100 for his paper called "Biographical Sketch of Andrew J. Crosby Jr."

Crosby was the first volunteer from Michigan to enlist for the Civil War and was a Farmington Township resident. He later became a member of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment, Company A, the Detroit Light Guard.

Adrienne Lemhoff took the second prize of \$50 for her paper called "North Farmington Senior High School."

HER PAPER described the physical history of the school building, built in 1960, and the social history of the faculty and students, including some nota-

ble persons and events. Her source material was a newspaper story and several interviews.

Winner of last year's "Best for Age" award, a \$25 prize, went to Stephen Geyer, an eighth grader at Power Middle School.

Stephen won with an untitled paper written after an interview with his father. The paper contrasted life in Farmington in 1884 with 1984.

Judging is based on historical interest, originality, quality and age category. Decisions of the judges will be final. Winners will be announced during the Farmington Historical Society's annual dinner, set for May 17.

THE SOCIETY names the contest, which will now be an annual event, to

honor the author of "Farmington, a Pictorial History," originally published in 1970, and the first major work of its kind.

Lee S. Peel taught English and journalism in Farmington High School for 30 years before his retirement in 1980. During that time, he instituted an advanced English class where one of the writing projects assigned to those students was an original research, historically oriented paper similar to the requirements of this contest.

Deadline for the contest is May 1. Entries are to be mailed to: Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest, 33309 Skidaway, Farmington 48024.

Questions will be taken by Nancy Leonard, 476-4125.

New device keeps shut-ins in touch

By Richard Lech
staff writer

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia is offering a new two-way communication system that links homebound persons with a computerized support center.

Called Communi-Call, the system allows the shut-in to talk directly to an operator who has access via computer terminal to the person's medical history.

Only one other hospital in Michigan has it, and we are the first one in this area," St. Mary public relations director Audrey McConachie said.

St. Mary has purchased 10 of the Communi-Call units, which are available to outlying patients as well as any homebound persons in the area, McConachie said.

Subscribers will be charged approximately \$30 a month, plus a \$10 installation fee, McConachie said, although individual ability to pay will be taken into consideration.

THE COMMUNI-CALL unit consists of a palm-sized transmitter pendant, which the patient can wear or carry at all times, and a larger, in-home communication unit, said James Riffle, marketing representative for Health Care Technology Corp., which manufactures the units.

To speak to the support center, the homebound person presses the call button on the larger unit or the remote-control button on the portable transmitter.

The patient then is linked by a WATS line with a home care assistant at the

Communi-Call Support Center in Hamden, Conn. The patient may be as far as 200 feet from the communication unit and still be heard by the assistant, Riffle said.

The call activates a four-digit code through which the assistant can call up the person's medical files on a computer screen. During an emergency, the assistant can call for emergency assistance while keeping in constant contact with the patient, Riffle said.

But Communi-Call is designed to be used in non-emergency situations, too, Riffle said.

"The important thing is that we encourage them to call as many times as they want," Riffle said. "We want them to get familiar with how to use it so they know how to use it during an emergency. But only a small portion of the calls we get are emergencies."

SUBSCRIBERS average 3.3 calls per week with Communi-Call, compared with an average of less than one call per year for other in-home emergency systems, Riffle said. Since it is a WATS line, the subscriber is not billed for a long-distance call.

Some elderly people call up an operator while going down the stairs or going from a wheelchair to a bed — both potentially dangerous situations for older people.

Each assistant has a home health care background and undergoes a two-week training course, Riffle said.

"They (subscribers) start to develop a friendly attitude toward the unit," Riffle said. "They think, 'This is more than for medical emergencies, it's that

nice girl I can talk to.' It makes them more comfortable in their home."

To prevent the lines from being busy during emergencies, the company always keeps one more assistant on duty than the normal peak demand during that period, Riffle said. Incoming calls have priority, he said.

The service currently has 2,000 units operating in 29 states, Riffle said. The New Jersey Hospital Association re-

cently selected it for the first statewide health care communication system, he said.

McConachie is encouraging community groups to donate money to St. Mary Hospital to buy more units. Individual Communi-Call units cost \$500 apiece, she said.

For more information on the system, call McConachie at 464-4800, Ext. 2596.

'What Pleasures You' is travelers' topic

The professional writing and photography husband and wife team, Iris Sanderson Jones and Mickey Jones, will talk on "Doing What Pleasures You" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile.

The two will narrate a slide show, answer questions and tell about close-to-home trips worth taking, warm-weather destinations and exotic far-away places.

Iris Sanderson Jones is the award-winning travel editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper chain, Michigan editor for Fodor Travel Guides, and a regular contributor to Travel and Leisure, Guestinformant and AAA's Michigan Living.

Mickey Jones is a professional photographer who has contributed to and taken special assignments for the Observer & Eccentric, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press and Ford Times. He has awards from the Society of American Travel Writers and National Industrial Recreation Association.



Iris Sanderson Jones

Reservations for the free program are requested by calling the library, 553-0300.



Docents wanted

Susan Hirose (at left), Anita Johnson and Constance Harp, all members of the docent staff for Farmington Historical Museum, welcome volunteers to join them in becoming guides for visitors through the former Governor Fred Warner Mansion. Newcomers participate in a brief orientation, then accept assignments to guide tour groups through the building and grounds. New docents will become acquainted with all special exhibits in the museum, among them the Victorian breakfast room on display in the drawing room, built during the 1860s and on loan from the Detroit Historical Museum. The piece was originally owned by Hiram Walker. Interested persons are asked to call Margaret Walker, 476-6349.

Folk art

Mary Lucksted, who has participated in previous arts and crafts shows sponsored by Farmington Community Center, returns to the center Saturday, Oct. 20, with a booth of folk art. Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the event that brings together 75 juried artisans. Admission is 50 cents at the gate.



Foundation asks for nominations

Nominations are now open for the Michigan Foundation for the Arts' 1985 Michigan Arts and Patrons Awards. Deadline for submitting nominations is Thursday, Nov. 15.

The awards are given annually to five artists in different fields in recognition of outstanding achievement in their field. Each recipient receives a check for \$2,500.

For nominating forms and guidelines, write to Michigan Foundation for the Arts, 405 Fisher Building, Detroit 48202.

The Michigan Arts Awards were established in 1976. Earlier this year, the Foundation honored jazz drummer J.C. Heard of Troy, painter/sculptor

Gerome Kamrowaki of Ann Arbor, sculptor Walter Midener of East Jordan, poet Herbert Scott of Kalamazoo, and dancer/choreographer Denise Sykula of East Detroit.

Recipients of the Patron of the Arts Award for outstanding service to the state in support of the arts were Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams and Mrs. Nancy Williams, and Dr. Dabho Dabchoff of Big Rapids. Patrons receive a commemorative plaque of Pewabic pottery specially cast for the Foundation.

MFA is a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting Michigan artists and art students. It is funded entirely by contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Beauty salon seeks woman for make-over

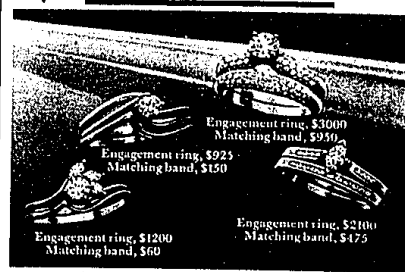
Tamara Friedman of Tamara Institute of Beauty, has launched a search for a working woman who will be the recipient of a complete beauty make-over.

The search comes after she met with beauty editors of several major magazines in New York City who interviewed her on the concept of a spin-the-city initiative in the Detroit area. She will collaborate with Working Woman this fall, whose editors want to feature the make-over in a future issue. The ideal candidate would be an ex-

ecutive-level woman who has recently changed positions within her company or who is new to a company but holds an executive position.

Candidates are asked to send a photograph or snapshot along with their name, address, place of employment and description of their job position to Beauty Make-Over, Tamara Institute of Beauty, 33480 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, 48018. All entries must be received by Saturday, Oct. 20.

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