

Nostalgia: 1 step forward, 2 steps back

David Litogot teaches elementary school history in the Farmington Public Schools. He is a member of the Farmington Historical Society.

By David Litogot
special writer

As I enter my nostalgia period of my life, I can't help but notice that Americans are spending a lot of time and money to reach or hang on to the past.

That tanned skin that the "healthy" people strive for today and achieve by lying under special lamps, was the "look" that my great-grandfather sported for 60 years. Of course, he was a farmer and his tan was free.

This same great-grandfather would drive to town for restaurant cooking. Today families like restaurants that advertise home cooking. The term "old-fashioned" used to

footprints in history

mean obsolete and passe. Now cookies with that label are popular. To many Americans, the word "country" meant backward or ignorant — these Americans, of course, lived in the city. Today, even city folk think that the word is a sign of wholesomeness and nutrition.

Grams would be in style today with his faded jeans, wrinkled shirt and short hair. If his hair was orange, it was because he was painting the tractor. He would be amazed today at the bucks we spend on our acid washed-jeans, all-cotton shirts and hair styles. (Whatever happened to barbers?)

Our country is taking a giant step backward in time in its renewed interest in country inns, camping gear,

fireplaces, woodburning stoves and carriage rides. Country crafts are popular. Some people think that bulk food is a new idea.

This same relative of mine would be smiling down on us for the comeback of front porches, herb gardens, train travel, overalls and solar heat-

ing. He would also recognize that some things never change, like shoes, mouse traps and pick-your-own berries; and that some items come-and-go like bobby sox, platted trousers and children's scooters.

Some people think they are really "in" today if they eat natural food, wear natural fibers and have natural childbirth. One hundred years ago that was all there was.

Colonial homes are now popular. The age of the ranch house on small suburban lots is over. The use of real

wood trim, pillars, foyers, pedestal sinks, antique furniture, hardwood flooring, lace curtains and large kitchens is desired in our finer homes.

Fortunately, in Farmington, we have a historical-minded citizenry that preserves the old homes and buildings. Some homes are even moved to keep the bulldozer at bay.

We can be proud of the governments of both Farmington and Farmington Hills that they realize the importance of the past and its

role in shaping the present and the future.

The kids in our schools are amazed at the history around them (when they are made aware of it). These same kids will someday preserve the things that we feel are important to keep around.

Who knows, these kids might even learn to walk and fox trot to a big band sound!

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

DEAN'S LIST

Karen Suber of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Alma College. She is majoring in economics and Spanish.

Kristine Rogers from Farmington and Alice Jewell and Laura Stribell from Farmington Hills were named to the dean's list at Adrian College.

Jeffrey Rinvolt of Farmington was named to the dean's list at West-

ern Michigan University. He is a 1987 Farmington High School graduate.

FOOD-SERVICE COURSE

Eric Bennett from Farmington Hills has completed a nationally recognized food-service certification course commonly known as the National Institute for Foodservice Industry. He is a sophomore at Northwood Institute, Midland.

The course was offered through Northwood Institute's Hotel/Restaurant curriculum. Northwood Institute in Midland is one of the few colleges that offers this course in the hotel/restaurant curriculum.

EARN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Lisa Smith, Christine Taube and Angela Zaino of Farmington received the Recognition of Excel-

lence award in the amount of \$1,000 from Eastern Michigan University.

Mary Cantillon of Farmington Hills was awarded the Eva Bourgeois/Mary Hall Memorial Scholarship for the 1988-89 academic year at Madonna College, Livonia.

Debra Boyer of Farmington was awarded the Nancy E. Tanger Scholarship for the 1988-89 academic year at Madonna College, Livonia. Her major is family and consumer resources.

MERIT AWARDS

Dawn Hardy and Jodi Wolford of Farmington Hills were awarded Madonna College Merit Awards for the 1988-89 academic year. The college is in Livonia.

NEW GRADUATES

Cheryl Valdivia of Farmington Hills graduated from the University of Arizona.

Tracy Toccalino of Farmington Hills received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Western University. Her plans include a master's degree, Schiller International University, Paris, France. She is a 1985 North Farmington High School graduate.

Kent Polkinghorne of Farmington Hills received a bachelor of science degree in scientific and technical communications from Michigan Technological University. He graduated with honors and has been accepted for the graduate program at Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif.

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Kent Polkinghorne of Farmington Hills received a bachelor of science degree in scientific and technical communications from Michigan Technological University. He graduated with honors and has been accepted for the graduate program at Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif.

IMAGINE DYING FROM A DISEASE YOU NEVER KNEW YOU HAD.

Eleven million people in the U.S. have diabetes. But almost half of them don't know it.

Untreated, diabetes can lead to heart disease, kidney disease, blindness and gangrene.

And for 150,000 people each year, it leads to death.

That's why you should be aware of the symptoms of diabetes: blurred vision, excessive thirst and frequent urination are just some of the warning signs. Because the sooner you find out if you have diabetes, the more likely you are to get it under control, before complications set in.

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