

By David Litogot
Special writer

According to local historian Ruth

At this time in Michigan history, the small airplane was considered a possible means of commuting to work. This concept, endorsed by Henry Ford himself, perished with the death of Harry Brooks, Ford's test pilot, in a plane crash.

"The airport was busy," said Floyd Cairns, retired Farmington Hills city clerk, who lives in the 13 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area. "One of the most memorable moments was when two Royal Canadian fighter planes made an emergency land-

Two airplane crashes were noted in the Farmington Enterprise during the late 1940s. Both planes took off from Kris Port and found crashed in nearby fields. Aerial photographs were taken in 1949 by an instructor at the airport. These photos of the Farmington area were displayed in town for weeks afterward. (I sure

The square glass room, now covered with plywood, was built and used by the local chapter of the Ground Observer Corps in the early 1950s. The Corps was established to sight enemy aircraft during those years of the Cold War and Korea. The shelter was manned 24 hours a day by local volunteers. (The Farm-

The two-lane dirt road is gone. The houses are almost gone along Orchard Lake Road. The once busy airport is gone too. What was once a cow pasture and potato farm, later a local airfield, and than a subdivision, describes this growing area well.

The Farmington YMCA offers its Corporate Membership Discount Program to local businesses. The program involves discounted memberships for employees as well as on-site programming. Interested businesses should call Greg Voss at 553-4020.

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