

FARMINGTON NOTES

Winner honored

Bob Adair, a Larkshire Elementary School fifth-grader who won the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest, will be honored at a luncheon at noon Monday, Feb. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills.

Bob Adair is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Adair of Farmington Hills. The contest was sponsored by the Three Flags Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

His essay, which is entered in the state DAR Essay Contest, was titled "The Liberty Bell." At the luncheon, he will receive the DAR publication "Washington Landmarks" and a certificate. He also will have his essay read.

Students were instructed to write on famous American landmarks.

Also to be honored are five high school seniors who have been selected as Good Citizens on the basis of dependability, leadership, service and patriotism. Also, the chapter is honoring Dr. Robert E. Cowie from Cranbrook/Kingswood School as the Outstanding American History Teacher for 1993.

Sanctity of Life

The First Baptist Church of Farmington will host a "Sanctity of Life Sunday" during regular services on Feb. 21 at the church, Farmington Road and Shiawassee, just north of downtown Farmington.

The Rev. Mark Blocher, executive director of Baptists For Life, will speak. He authored the Moody Press book "Vital Signs" in which he deals with medical ethics, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, fetal tissue experimentation and other issues.

Services are at 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nurseries are available for all services. For more information, call the church at 474-0350.

Gains another term

Jan Fox, a Farmington Hills resident and former Hills councilwoman, was elected to a ninth term as vice chairman of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Pecky Lewis of Bloomfield Hills was elected chairman. He replaced Lewis Wint, who died last November after 18 years on the parks commission, including 15 as chairman. Richard Kuhn of Waterford was elected secretary.

History repeats itself
Author updates Farmington book

Farmington has an interesting history — and a longtime resident who seems to enjoy compiling it. Lee Peel, author and former teacher, has updated his "Farmington: A Pictorial History." This version contains 100 additional photos.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



Lee Peel doesn't fall into Santayana's line of thinking.

Peel, an author and former teacher, knows Farmington's history, and he obviously thinks it bears repeating. Peel has updated his book "Farmington: A Pictorial History."

He says the book is better than the first edition, which sold out both its first and second printings. How much better?

Well, for one, there are at least 100 additional photos.

"Everyone would say, 'Oh, I think so-and-so has some pictures. Why don't you give them a call?'" said Peel, who taught for 30 years at Farmington High. "It just sort of mushroomed from there."

Chapters include the settlement in 1824, the area's Quaker history, involvement in the Underground Railroad and the chronology leading up to Farmington Hills becoming a city.

Pictures tell the story, though. They also fascinate the author, who finds a story in every picture.

Peel points to one in the book. The photo is of a turn-of-the-century combined drug store/post office.



SHARON LEHEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lots of history: Lee S. Peel shows off the updated version of his book on local history.

The author traces a shadow in the foreground, which he believes is the photographer's head and tripod camera.

In another photo, Peel points to the Power House in the background. The picture is of the Farmington Junction, which was a stop on the Detroit United Railway line linking Pontiac to Detroit.

Noted railroad author Jack Schramm provided the photo. Others contributed as well.

A woman loaned Peel 15 highly prized postcards, which were taken in the early 1900s of Farmington scenes.

Modern technology helped, too. Peel was able to reprint many photos from the city's newspaper, The

Farmington Enterprise, and from other archives.

That's one of the few concessions to modern gadgetry for the high school journalism teacher turned history buff.

Peel cranks out text on a 1960s IBM Selectric typewriter. He also

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