

From The Supervisor Of Farmington Township



(A Former Owner and Editor Of
The Enterprise)

It has been with considerable pride that I have watched the growth and development of several institutions in and around Farmington and quite particularly of your valuable paper.

In looking back, seemingly but a few years, to the time when Mr. Bloomer conceived the idea of starting a little paper upon Grand River near where Day-Dickerson now lives he came to my father for some help, and if my memory serves me right, he was assisted to the extent of about \$200, in the way of a loan and from this small beginning the little paper grew to become one of the outstanding papers of the County.

In 1901 and 1902 it was my privilege to own and operate the Enterprise.

One other great feature of this community has been the outstanding demand of the people for improved roads, beginning with the gravel roads and from those have followed the cement. As the roads were improved, people were brought in closer touch with the outside, and as a result our churches, our schools and our banks developed rapidly. Immediately following good roads was a rapid advance in land values; this made a demand for electric lights and improved highways, and today this section of the County is an outstanding example of the community progressiveness in civic interest.

The Enterprise has always stood for a constructive policy in all of the above developments and today with its present policy holds a place of leadership in Farmington and Farmington Township.

—HARRY McCRACKEN.

From The Mayor of Farmington



This is the birthday of our Enterprise; its fortieth anniversary. We congratulate it, and wish for many happy returns of the day.

The dress it wore as an infant, and preserved during these years by Mr. Fred Cook, shows it to have been a lusty youngster, and whether or not it experienced all the ills of childhood such as colic, teething, mumps, measles, whooping cough, etc., it survived and now in its prime is capable of greater tasks and accomplishments.

Forty years of typesetting, of proof reading; acres of copy, 25,000,000 square feet of paper, printers ink by the hundred weight, and midnight oil by the barrel. These have entered into the existence of our paper but they have been no more than the means to an end.

The real Enterprise has been its spirit, its thought, its enthusiasm. For two-score years has it recorded the life and history of this community. Births, deaths, joys, sorrows, weddings, anniversaries, parties, fires, church, political, social and club life; distress, success, failure. It has carried the kind sympathy of friends and neighbors, the advice, admonitions and criticisms of the public.

Long years ago it became a vital factor in the life of the village, a welcome visitor in office and home, an integral part of the community. It has recorded and helped to build its history. It has stimulated and helped develop its moral fabric and its growth.

The future of a new era is ahead. May the Enterprise with the spirit suggested by its name go on to greater success and more useful service to our city.

—WELLS D. BUTTERFIELD.

From A Former Publisher of The Farmington Enterprise



Enterprise Photo

It was under the able editorship of William N. Miller that the Farmington Enterprise attained perhaps its greatest advancement in development and prestige. Mr. Miller came to Farmington in 1922, and in the five years that followed, greatly enhanced the standing of the newspaper in the community.

"Why the country newspaper?"

This question was once asked me by a country banker, who upon propounding what he seemed to consider a "stumper," leaned back in his chair, elbows akimbo, with head resting in the palms of finger-locked hands. Over his countenance there stole a faintly quizzical smile as he turned to me for an answer.

Yankee-like, I answered that question by asking another: "Why the country banker?"

Both questions were left unanswered at the time, but the queries later gave rise to thought.

The country bank and the country newspaper are the result of community needs. Without the bank the community would cease to function as a useful division of our social, industrial, and economic structure. For the comfort, convenience and welfare of its people every community must have means of exchange, communication and social intercourse. In this scheme the bank and newspaper play an important part.

Country and Metropolitan newspapers are not competitors. Both are cogs in a great wheel, each performing a distinct mission in carrying out the natural order of things pertaining to human endeavor.

When the country or community newspaper attempts to cover the field of the metropolitan press it courts the inquiry made by the banker, but devoted strictly to community interests it labors in a field peculiarly its own, made better by progressive and intelligent work.

With growth of communities, astonishing increase in means of transportation and communication and the welding of thousands of family units into one great assembly by the radio, the necessity for the community newspaper has increased rather than diminished. None of the later means of communication have so much as scratched the surface of its field.

I have always maintained that the sole province of the community paper is a strictly local one. It was my endeavor while publisher of The Farmington Enterprise to make it purely a community paper and it is with pleasure I note that my successor is not only carrying out that policy, but improving upon my efforts.

I congratulate the publisher of The Farmington Enterprise upon his fine achievement in making a truly representative community newspaper.

May future anniversary numbers mark continuing progress.

—W. N. MILLER.