

No "Boom" Days Then, But Business Thrived Here 34 Years Ago

It was long before the days of super-highways and motor-cars, of subdivisions and "frontage" frenzy—yet Farmington business-men prospered. The survey of the town's business, printed below, is from the Enterprise issue of October 19, 1894. (Courtesy of Mr. Fred L. Cook).

The Prettiest Village in Michigan

A Short Review of the Business Men Who Have Made It So

Farmington, the prettiest inland village of Michigan, is situated on the Detroit & Howell Plank Road, 15 miles from Detroit, and in the best section of farming lands in the county of Oakland. The nearest railroad station is Novi, five miles distant, on the F. & P. M. Ry. But few railroad towns enjoy better mail facilities than Farmington, we having two incoming and outgoing mails a day. The town supports three churches, Methodist, Baptist and Universalist, and a graded school, second to none in the county outside of Pontiac. The town has made material advancement the past two years, as seen in the erection of new and handsome residences and rebuilding of old ones into modern homes. The recent advancement is largely due to the fact that the business interests of the town, with few exceptions, is maintained by young men, full of enterprise and push, as will be noticed in the following resume of the wide-awake business men.

Fred M. Warner

First among the names of the business men who have done so much for our village, stands that of Fred M. Warner. Although having been in business for himself only about eight years, he has in that time done more toward the material advancement of the place than any other person. He is now the successful proprietor of one of the most complete hardware stores in Oakland county, carrying as he does, a large stock of heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, ranges, etc. Buying in large lots and for cash, he can offer every advantage to his customers. Mr. Warner is also the manager of the Farmington and Franklin cheese factories, the products of which are known all over the state, having secured the highest premiums ever given at the International Exposition held at Detroit. In connection with his other business he owns and operates a large cold storage building, and ships annually many thousand dozen of eggs and tons of butter. As a citizen he is highly respected and his many friends are proud to call the attention of strangers to his remarkable success in business.

Wilber, Cook & Co.

This is a large and magnificently stocked mercantile establishment, doing an extensive trade and conducted in a capable and enterprising manner. The establishment is one of the pioneer mercantile houses of Farmington, founded many years ago. The present partnership was formed last August, since which time the store has not lost if it has not gained in public favor. The firm is composed of C. W. Wilber and Fred L. Cook, young men well

and favorably known to the public, and Fred M. Warner. The cash principle on which the business is now conducted, has proved very satisfactory to the firm and beneficial to the public. In the first place the store is noted for carrying a superior stock and it affords to the people the lowest prices and thus draws trade from all the surrounding country. An immense stock is carried, consisting of dry goods, groceries, clothings, hats, caps, boots and shoes, furnishings, etc., and in connection with Fred M. Warner's cold storage, do a large business in farm produce.

James L. Hogle

In our review of the business establishments of the town we wish to make a prominent mention of this popular drug store. The proprietor, Mr. James L. Hogle, may well be congratulated upon the deserved success with which he has met, and the popularity of his business. He is one of the most successful druggists of the county, and his success is due to his own enterprise and ability. He is a competent and experienced chemist and druggist, and his well appointed and attractive store, is filled with a superior stock of pure drugs, druggist's sundries, the leading patent medicines, paints, oils, stationery and fancy goods, cigars and tobacco. Mr. Hogle's agreeable manner and upright principles of doing business makes it a pleasure to deal at his store.

L. W. Sowle

It is now about two years ago since Mr. L. W. Sowle, the subject of our sketch, came to Farmington and bought out the stock of J. W. Collins. The business is one which has been before the public for many years, and under Mr. Sowle's management it has gone ahead, increasing the trade and growing in public favor with the people. Mr. Sowle is a careful and capable buyer and purchases from the best markets and the public find every advantage in dealing at his store, which is always splendidly stocked with a well selected line of dry goods, groceries, fine shoes and an excellent line of crockery, glassware, lamps, etc. A special feature of this store is the five and ten cent bargain counters.

Henry W. Lee

Our town can justly boast of having one of the best harness manufacturing establishments in the county and should occupy a prominent place in our review. The proprietor, Mr. H. W. Lee, commenced the harness making business here some three years ago. He has met with satisfactory success and has built up an esteemed patronage, and acquired the confidence of the public. He is a competent workman and anything which leaves his hands may be relied upon. He manufactures all kinds of harness, both light and heavy, single and

double, carries a full line of blankets and robes, and everything usually found in a first class harness shop.

James W. Hatten

An establishment which does a very large annual volume of business is that carried on by James W. Hatten, a reliable business man and proprietor of the large farm implement warehouse on Main street. A large stock of the best makes of buggies, carriages, wagons, and all kinds of agricultural implements are kept on hand. Mr. Hatten commenced business about five years ago and has been phenomenally successful. The people of the surrounding country have great confidence in him and his trade reaches into all the adjoining towns. In connection with his other business he carries on a wagon and blacksmith shop, giving special attention to repairing.

M. B. Pierce

Mr. Pierce, our ex-postmaster, is one of Farmington's prosperous citizens. He has been a resident here since childhood and a gentleman having a wide acquaintance. In our writup we would call attention to his tonsorial parlor, where he has a large patronage with the local and traveling public, commercial men visiting Farmington, and others. He always endeavors to oblige and treat his customers with the utmost courtesy, while all are amply pleased with the faultless work done. He is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Henry Schroeder

Our town possesses the advantage of a first class meat market, of which the experienced gentleman named above is the proprietor. It is now about a year ago since Mr. Schroeder established himself here, buying out the "Palace Market" of B. S. Owen. He has met with merited success and has built up a good trade. Mr. Schroeder is a good judge of stock and knows how to conduct a strictly A-1 market. The public find here the choicest meats and vegetables of all kinds in season. Fair and upright dealings with all is gaining for him a reputation second to none.

Thos. L. Irving

Among our blacksmiths we call the attention of the public to that popular gentleman, Thos. L. Irving. Since coming here about a year ago he has done exceedingly well, has built up a splendid trade and acquired great popularity with the people. He is a number one workman, especially as a horse-shoer. He does all kinds of blacksmithing, machine repairing and iron work in the best possible manner.

H. W. Habermehl

We wish to add a few words in our review in reference to the custom boot and shoe business of Mr. H. H. Habermehl. This gentleman located here about three

years ago, and by strict attention to business has earned a large custom. We say to our readers that if you appreciate durable, comfortable and well made footwear call on Mr. Habermehl. He is one of the best workmen, and gives special attention to repairing and his prices are reasonable.

Miss Marie Gill

It is congratulatory to the ladies of Farmington and vicinity to be able to note the existence in our town of such an excellent millinery and dress making establishment as we herein describe. Miss Gill is the successor to the stock of Mrs. C. Murray, which she purchased about a year ago, and she has already increased largely the trade thus secured. She is a natural milliner, a fine dress maker, and the ladies find superior advantages in dealing here. For this season's trade she has on hand one of the finest stocks of fashionable millinery ever shown in town.

C. W. Chamberlin

We now come to the popular business of C. W. Chamberlin, one of our energetic business young men, who commenced his present trade in Farmington some three years ago. He is now conducting a first class cigar store and tonsorial parlor. He keeps the best brands of cigars and tobaccos, etc. He is a competent artist, courteous and obliging. In connection with his other business he gives special attention to watch and clock repairing. His success is well deserved.

William Kennedy

This gentleman is the veteran blacksmith of the town, having been in business in Farmington nearly 30 years. He is still at the old stand and doing a good business. (Continued on Page 13)

Was Popular With All



MISS ANNA CONROY

In 1898, according to the Enterprise—"A graduate of Farmington High School, class of '97. She is now making a success as saleslady in E. C. Grace's general store." Miss Conroy is now Mrs. Roy Brown, of Farmington.