

CHAT ROOM



Susan Ehrlich

Scouting offers a world of benefits for teenagers

Since 1993, I have been involved as publicity committee member of Boy Scout Troop 110 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. As I reflect on the last five years as a card-carrying BSA member, I am truly proud that my 16-year-old son has actually stuck it out and remained with the troop.

My other son, 13, is also a troop member. The peer pressure for teenagers makes it difficult for the boys to even admit to being part of a Scout troop. Certainly, a teen cannot be seen in a public place with a Scout uniform! It is too embarrassing. But, what an organization! Troop 110 has done high adventure trips to Isle Royale, Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario and a hiking trek on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia.

An upcoming event for Troop 110 is a whitewater rafting trip in West Virginia. Other troops have done the challenging Philmont Scout Ranch trek in Cimmaron, N.M. Hiking, backpacking and canoeing are definitely not for wimp! Imagine carrying food and everything else you need to survive for seven to 10 days. One canoe portage in Algonquin was 3 miles long. As a city person, I am truly in awe.

I look back and remember the community service projects: St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen in Detroit is a biannual project. The Scouts prepare, cook and

Please see CHAT ROOM, B2

Warner museum is local treasure

Farmington native Fred Warner was a three-term Michigan governor. His home is now a museum.



BY RUTH MOSELMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

The white Victorian Italianate house on Grand River, now the Farmington Historical Museum, was the lifelong home of Farmington's only Michigan governor, Fred Maltby Warner.

The building was enlarged at the turn of the century when the Warners added the large porches, indoor plumbing and central heating.

Some of the original Italianate windows were changed and the main entrance was moved from the west side of the house to the north or Grand River side.

The house was built of double brick construction, making it cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

The Warner house wasn't always white. The red brick is reputed to have been made locally. The house was probably built from a "pattern book" that early local carpenters used to build a house in the latest style for their clients.

When P.D. and his wife Rhoda Botsford Warner built the house in 1867, P. Dean Warner was a state senator and well to do Farmington merchant.

Rhoda was childless, but the couple had adopted a little girl, Mary.

Meanwhile, an English couple immigrated to America with their two daughters and a baby boy. The Maltby family moved to a small wooded farm in Livonia. William Maltby worked as a farmhand.

When Frances died, there was no way that a child could care for the children. The girls got jobs as hired girls in Livonia households where they were eventually adopted.

P.D. and Rhoda decided to adopt the



Mansion today: Dick Carvell, chairman of the museum committee and treasurer of the historical commission, stands before the Warner Mansion. A renovation project currently under way will replace and reproduce the structural columns and rebuild the supports for the porch.

seven month old baby boy. He became Fred Warner and part of the large extended Warner and Botsford families of Farmington.

In 1867, the year the Warners built their house, Farmington became an

official village and P.D. Warner was its first village president.

The Warners educated their children in the local schools. After graduation Fred was sent to Michigan Agricultural College, the current Michigan State

University. In the 1880s, the main curriculum was farming. Fred Warner was more interested in business and bicycle racing than in farming as such.

Although Fred Warner only spent

Please see WARNER MUSEUM, B2

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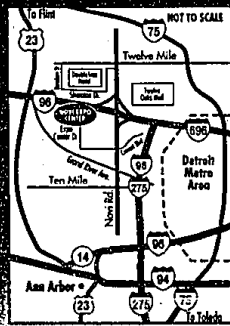


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