

Farmington Observer INSIDE:

Local girl plays Helen Keller, B3

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CHAT ROOM

Nora Dolan Center honors senior veterans with program

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One senior wrote afterwards, "I

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

Cook collection documents early years

An interest in family genealogy led local pioneer Robert Cook to research the history of Farmington. His work is available at the community library.

BY RUTH MOEHLMAN SPECIAL WRITER

Vintage Lasser of Hankington

SPECIAL WINTER In the history collection that infor-mation about families who settled in Farmington before 1000. Collecting information about local families was the habby of Robert Cook (1908-82). His daughter

(1996-82). His daughter, Judy Cook, who served three terms as a Farmington historical commissioner and is still an active volunteer at the Farmington Historical Museum, recalls trips her family took when she was a child. They stopped at cemeteries where her dad collected material from the tombstones for his genealogical collec-tion.

ner and collected material (rom the tombatones for his genealogical collec-tion. Bob Cook started collecting informa-tion fifter he married Mildred Adams in 1933. According to a 1976 interview, Robert Cook started researching the Cook started researching the Cook family. That information only went back three generations. Then Bob concentrated on the maternal sides of the family, researching the Thayer and Laphama families. The Laphama were his mother's father's family and the Thayers were his mother's family. Both were Farm-ington pioneer families. Because Farmington was a small town same Farmington families were interrelated. Robert Cook's research scoon-overed almost all the pioneer

interrelated. Robert Cook's research soon covered almost all the pioneer families. Cook's father, Fred Cook, had started the collection with a variety of clip-pings of local families and events.



Cook Building: Still an elegant addition to the downtown Farmington landscape, the Cook Building once housed Fred Cook's general store, circa 1891. Customers could buy dry goods, hardware and groceries there.

He was probably interested in his friends and customers. Fred Cook with various business al store in Farmington. The store was on Grand River in the Cook Building. It started in business in 1891 and sold dry goods, hardware and groceries.

1891 and sold dry goods, hardware intu grocorics. The Cooks were active in community life in Farmington. Anna Cook, Robort's mother, was a member of the original township library board. She was a member of the Eastern Star,

Formington Women's Club and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She also sang in the choir of the First United Methodist Church where she was an involved member. By the time Robert Cook graduated from the University of Michigan with an engineering dogree, the business community was changing. General stores a succe were outdat-d. Bob Cook no doubt anticipated changes in the business climate while attending the university.

Ford Motor Co., but enjoyed his hobby of precedory. Robert and Midred Cook mode their home in Farmington. Robert Cook like his father before him lived his entire life in Farmington. Midred Adams Cook, Bob Cook's high school sweetheart and wife, worked in township government. They had one daughter, Judy. As part of his hobby, Bob wrote let-ters to relatives and friends in New

He went to work as an engineer at Ford Motor Co., but enjoyed his hobby

Please See COOK BUILDING,82

