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## Capture Of Gang Of Counterfeiters An Exciting Episode Here Long Ago

Following is the concluding portion of the historical article read last week by Nathan H. Power before the Farmington Exchange Club, the first part having been printed in last week's Enterprise:

(By N. H. Power)  
When the first settlers came, game was abundant. Bears, deer, wolves, squirrels were numerous. Quail, partridge and wild turkeys were plentiful. One day in the fall an uncle of mine, while riding horseback on the Ten-Mile road, opposite the property now known as the Farmington Woods subdivision, told me that he saw a flock of wild turkeys at least 50 in number cross the road just a few rods ahead of him.

Near what is now known as the Orchard Lake road, a farmer began to lose his pigs and other small stock, which he rightly guessed was the work of wolves. He bought a large steel trap, set and baited it with meat. In a little over a year he caught seven wolves in it. One so large and strong that he was able to pull

out of the ground the stake to which the trap was fastened and dragged trap and stake nearly half a mile where they became stuck between two trees and where the wolf was found and killed.

### Wolf Chases Wooper

This story I am going to relate was told me many years ago. I am not sure that it is entirely true yet it was told me with great detail and could have easily occurred. One evening after the day's work was over and he had eaten his supper he started to call upon her.

Usually he took a short cut across the fields and woods, but it was a dark rainy night in November, and he chose to go the long way around the road. He was a stalwart young man, confident and fearless usually. With the exception of a pocket knife he was unarmed.

He started on his journey at a brisk pace, fearing nothing, happy in the thought that he would soon meet the one who was all in all to him. It was a lonely road that he was taking. Less than half way to the home of his intended he was startled by a strange noise, as if some creature was in pain. He had seen some young horses in the field and thought first that one of them was making the noise. There was a high rail fence between him and whatever it was, and on the other side of this fence the animal seemed to be going in the same direction he was going. Soon the animal whined like a dog in distress, and he knew it was not a colt. Suddenly a shaggy, huge form leaped to the top of the fence and lunged in the road a few feet behind him.

He opened his knife, walked faster and finally ran. He thought he could hear the brute coming behind him. He lost no time but did a marathon that would have been a credit to a professional. Nearly breathless and well nigh exhausted, he finally got to the girl's house and after a while was able to tell his story.

### It Was A Bear

He thought it wise to postpone his return home until the next morning, and on his way met a man whom he knew well. He carried a powerful rifle. And on the young man telling him his experience of the night before, informed him that it was a large bear that he had seen and also that he had been wounded the night before by the hunter who had followed the animal until darkness prevented further pursuit. He had also said that a wounded bear is a dangerous foe and he was lucky to escape an attack. That same day the bear was followed to a swamp where he had taken refuge and killed. He was full grown and very large.

Sometimes, and especially within the last few months, business has been none too good and in the common parlance of the street we have had what we call hard times. It is a condition that the pioneers faced most of the time. For years the nearest banks were located in Detroit. Finally a law was passed to make banks more numerous and which would also enable the people to transact business more easily. The law's intent was good but it was loosely drawn and easily abused. Very soon after the law went into effect, many banks were organized in Michigan.

"Wild Cat Banks"  
These banks were allowed to issue paper money on insufficient security. Much of this money went into circulation and when the day came for the redemption of these notes there were no funds and they were valueless. These institutions finally became known all over the country as Wild Cat banks, and the money Wild Cat money. They failed rapidly. A bill whose face value was \$100 today might not be worth 10 cents tomorrow and the holder of the paper would be compelled to stand the loss. We have had some very costly lessons in finance but they have been highly beneficial and we have profited to such an extent that our money, gold, silver, or paper is worth at all times and places its face value.

One of the episodes long remembered in this vicinity was the operation and capture of a gang of counterfeiters, two of whom at last resided in Farmington, on Shilawasse avenue. In those days the money was called bogus money and they made nothing but 50 cent pieces which they made at night in a building that was used as a blacksmith shop in the day time. It stood on Grand River on a four corners a mile or two this side of New Hudson. To old settlers in that vicinity the place

is still known as Bogus Corners. There were six or eight men engaged in the making of the stuff. One of whom was an expert workman. He it was that made the dies from tin and lead. Enough pure silver was used to make the coins jingle and when the metal, tin lead and silver was very hot it was poured into the mold stamped with the die and He told me that they foolishly let a minister into their organization who demanded \$50 to pay a debt he owed. This they refused at first but being persistent he got the money, paid his debt, but the fact that it was all in 50 cent pieces led to their detection. I have always doubted this part of his story but it may be true.

Raided At Night  
However, one night the United States marshal, with his forces of men, some of whom were from Farmington, raided the place. Some of the culprits escaped for the time, but they were all finally captured and punished. The man I was acquainted with got two years in prison. After he served his time he became a farmer and lived a useful life.

They made his wife a prisoner and charged her with being an accessory to the fact. After her arrest she was placed in a building that stood about where the house of the late George Clare is located on Shilawasse avenue. She was well-known about town and her arrest caused no little excitement.

One "Treatment" Enough  
A number of people went to the house where she was detained to get a glimpse of her. Her room was on the lower floor of the house and it was only partially completed. There were cracks in the siding where people on the outside could peek through and see the prisoner. She was ready for them. By some means she had procured a quantity of red pepper and when some over-curious person stuck his face close to a crack in order to see the prisoner she would blow some of this fiery stuff from the hollow of her hand into his eyes. A victim of this treatment did not go back for a second dose.

After a little she was released and was never brought to trial. She was a woman of great energy of rugged health and lived to be nearly 90 years old.

The building in which this episode occurred was owned by Mark Abbott a man who occupied a prominent place in the early his-

tory of this village. Law was his profession. He had a large practice, was known as a good trial lawyer and was uniformly successful in his court practice. Legal papers that he drew were concise and accurate. He was made postmaster in 1849 and held the office for four years.

In his youthful days he gave promise of a successful career in his profession. But he lacked ambition and this coupled with some moral weakness cost him the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. He left Farmington many years ago, went to another part of the state where he died a pitiful death among strangers.

"The Institute"  
Near where the woman was imprisoned stood the Oakland County Institute, a private school taught by Miss Wheelock. At times she had as high as 100 pupils and they ranged from a boy like myself, learning the alphabet to older pupils about to graduate in higher mathematics, grammar, U. S. history, etc.

She was a teacher of high ideals. The Bible was read every morning at the opening of school, followed by a fervent prayer and was to the lad who failed to keep his head lowered during its utterance. If he did not, he might find himself kneeling on the platform by the side of the teacher at the next morning's devotions. To her the Bible was the inspired word of God. She had implicit faith in the Great Teacher and was loyal and faithful disciple to the end.

The school was highly successful for a number of years. It long since ceased to exist, most of her pupils have followed her to the silent land, but as long as they lived the influence of her life and teaching remained with them.

Conflagrations in connection with motor vehicles are largely caused by gasoline explosions.

It's hard to turn the wheels of progress by pounding on them with a hammer.

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