

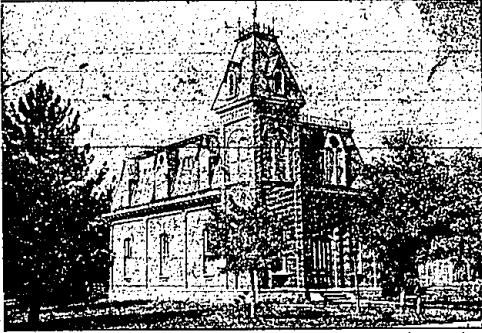
FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE BONUS SECTION

SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR — NUMBER 25

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1960

SECTION C

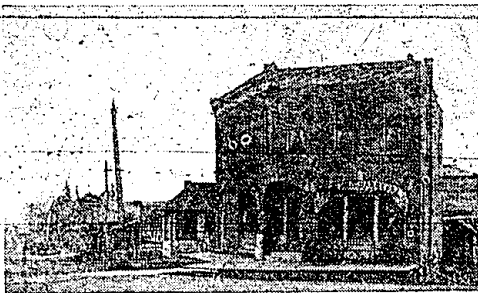
Many Old Buildings Still In Use in the Community



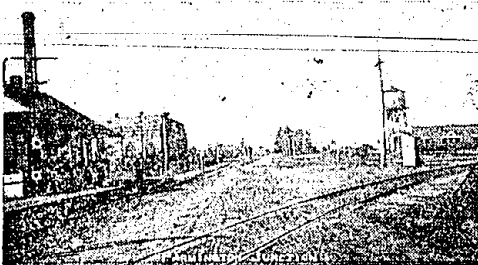
A center in the community in years gone by, the old Township Hall at the northwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Road is still bustling with activities.



Farmers in this area tended to congregate at the Farmington Rolling Mills back in the days when Farmington was rural. The mill is now headquarters for the City of Farmington department of public works.



Standing somewhat alone at the southwest corner of Farmington Road and Grand River, this odd shaped building is now occupied by Oak Pharmacy with apartments above.



You may not recognize it, but this is the Grand River Orchard Lake Road area. It was known as Farmington Junction "back in the good old days."

First School House Was Erected Here in 1830

The following story gives glimpses into early school days in Farmington. Material was extracted from a detailed research paper prepared by Kathryn Briggs, a longtime resident of this area.

The first school house in this community was a tiny log hut built in 1830. It stood on what is now Shiawassee Road but in those days there was just an Indian-trail—running—through—there.

Farmington's first school master was Nathan Power and the first schoolma'am was Miss Parley Ann Head.

P. Dean Warner, who came to Farmington in 1825 at the age of three with his family related some of his experiences in this first school some 50 years later in a speech before the County Pioneer Society.

This is a portion of his speech: "FIFTY YEARS ago this present winter I had my first experience as a pupil in a public school. There was but one school district in the whole township and myself and two elder brothers were compelled to go over two miles to reach the schoolhouse.

"Many a night did we arrive home from that school tired and weary, on account of the distance and full of fear and anxiety as the shades of night came on and wolves began their hideous howling. It would seem to us in our inexperienced and frightened condition; that the woods were full of wolves and that they were just ready to pounce upon and tear us to pieces, when in fact there would not be more than one wolf perhaps within a mile of us."

In 1835, Nate Power was authorized to build a new school and the sum of \$375 was granted for the job. He built it on the hill above the creek and it became known throughout the district as "The Little Red Schoolhouse." When this was outgrown in 1862, Mr. Power also built the next schoolhouse. This was a two-story frame building right next to where the present Farmington Junior High School stands today.

TO THIS LATTER school building went Fred M. Warner, later to become a governor of the State of Michigan. He completed his high school course in 1879 at the age of 14. His formal education was completed by one term later at the State Agricultural College in Lansing (now Michigan State University).

By 1877 there were a total of ten small schools in Farmington. In District 5 (Farmington Village) there were two departments, a higher and a lower, respectively in charge of a male and female teacher.

School terms aggregated four weeks per year at this date.

Township Has Only Powers Granted

The township is created by the Constitution of Michigan, but it has only those powers granted it by the legislature.

The legislature need not give the township any powers at all if it chooses not to. Where the legislature allows an act, or has not seen fit to pass a statute on the matter, and has not given the township the power to regulate the same act, then the township has no power to act at all.

The annual salary of the male teacher was \$1,000 and that of the lady teacher \$400. The other school districts in the township employed only male teachers in the winter. The summer terms were taught by females. The remuneration for the male teacher was \$35 to \$50 per month and to the women teachers \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

FARMINGTON Village's next school building, known as the Union School, was erected in 1888 and was used until destroyed by fire in 1918. The school's first principal was Carlton A. Beardsley.

Following the fire of 1918, what is now the old first unit of the Farmington Junior High School was constructed and was to serve as the general school for the area, thence a combination junior senior high school and finally a junior-high-building only. It was in 1953 when the new Farmington High School on Shiawassee was opened.

Prior to 1888 the Farmington school was ungraded. It was not until 1890 that Farmington had its first real high school graduating class. The first to be graduated from the Farmington school numbered three: Julia Hance, Nina Whipple and

See **FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE** on Page 6C

Annual Twp. Meet in April

At annual township meetings held each year the electors of the township are invited to join together to receive the reports of public officials in the past year, to pass upon the performances of these officials, to pass upon the transactions of financial affairs and also to consider and vote on proposed expenditures for the coming year.

Under Public Act 105 passed in 1956, the annual township meeting is held on the Saturday immediately preceding the first Monday in April at a time and place selected by the township board.

This meeting must be held and township residents must be given an opportunity to transact township business unless the township has chosen to abandon the annual town meeting by proper action.

In any township with a population of over 5,000 action toward abolishing the annual meeting may be started in two ways.

A resolution of the township board submitting the issue to the voters is one method. The other is by petition of eight percent of the voters. In either case the question is submitted to the voters at the next regular primary or general election.

Information for Writing State, Fed. Congressmen

Do you know who your district representatives are in the Michigan and Federal government legislative bodies?

There are apparently many residents who do not, judging from the increasing number of requests we have been getting from area citizens for this information. Here is that information:

STATE SENATOR (12th District): L. Harvey Lodge (Rep.)—Home Address, 6810 Longworth, Waterford; Lansing Address, Senate Chamber, State Capitol, Lansing.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (4th District which is Oakland County): James Clarkson (Dem.)—Home Address, 23525 Valley View, Southfield; Lansing Address, House of Representatives, State Capitol, Lansing.

NATIONAL SENATORS: Philip A. Hart and Patrick V. McNamara (both Democrats)—Home Address of Hart, 735 West Allegan, Lansing; Home Address of McNamara, 19708 Ward Ave., Detroit. Letters sent to Washington should be addressed to the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: William S. Broomfield (Rep. representative in the House of Representatives for the 18th Congressional District, Oakland County). Broomfield's Home Address is 8282 DeSoto, Royal Oak. Letters sent to him in Washington should be addressed to House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

*A Community
United is
A Healthy One*