

# Founders Festival Is Link Between Past, Present

BY PHILIP POWER

Publisher

This coming Thursday marks the start of the fourth Farmington Founders Festival.

It will run through Saturday, with events scheduled day and night. There will be a beauty contest, a balloon ascension, a dance for teen-agers, a pet show, dinners and refreshments, a softball tournament, numerous bands, various booths. In short, nearly everything anyone in search of an interesting and enjoyable time could want.

It's Farmington's biggest annual event. A great number of people have spent a lot of time and energy preparing for the Festival. Their work and their hopes represent something of enormous importance and value for the entire Farmington community.

THE FESTIVAL commemorates the founding, in 1824, of Farmington.

Perhaps because my ancestor, Arthur Power, was the man who decided to settle his family in what was to become Farmington, the links between the past and the present represented by the Festival are particularly evident to me.

Farmington is a strange community, in this day of the instant suburb developing without a past, without roots, without a sense of history or identity.

Farmington has a past. It has a history. People who live here have a sense of identity and a feeling for the roots of their community.

Perhaps that's one of the things that makes Farmington more of a community than other suburbs, which developed suddenly and emerged so quickly as full-blown cities.

And it is this feeling of community that

is so precious to the entire Farmington area as it develops and moves into the future—a future which will be marked by explosive growth of population, industry, and social stresses.

The Festival links the past with the present, and thereby provides a helpful definition of the future.

IT ALSO SERVES to make clear the underlying unity of the entire Farmington community: city, township, villages.

For people from throughout the area come to the festival. They eat hot dogs together. Not township hot dogs or city hot dogs, but hot dogs. They look at a ball game together. They perhaps remember for a moment the past of their common community together.

The differences between the city and the township, for so much of the year such a matter of pain and irritation, somehow seem to dissolve during Festival time.

City and Township police cooperate in working out parade routes. Political figures from all local government bodies come out together. Shoppers from the entire community take advantage of the bargains offered throughout the entire area.

Farmington is a community. Its past is as a community, and its future will be as a community, linked by common interests and good will.

Maybe while you're having fun at the Festival, it might be a nice thing to think about that.

And smile at your friends. It's that kind of time.

## Artists Slate Show

Farmington Junior High School grounds will look something like Paris' Left Bank from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. Saturday, July 27, when the Farmington Artists Club holds its Founders Festival exhibit of works by artists from Farmington, city and township.

Formed a "clothes line" exhibit, art works will be set up out-of-doors on easels, peg boards and on the ground in true, casual French-like tradition. The show usually attracts 20-25 local artists, working in all range of media—oil, acrylic, collage, water color, charcoal, tempera.

There will be no set pattern to the arrangement of the art works. The display is on an individual basis and artists will place their displays where they think the works show best advantage. All paintings will be for sale.

Those desiring further information about participating may call Mrs. Alice Nichols, 476-3879.

## Festival Committees Named

Putting all the pieces of the jigsaw together.

That's the job of Founders Festival general Chairman Ron Holland.

Planning for each Festival takes just about an entire year. It's a delicate and difficult job to make certain that all the pieces come together at just the right time.

THE THREE DAY annual event is organized and staged by a series of committees. The problems are compounded by the fact that all of the committees are comprised of volunteers.

Needless to say the volunteers have to spend a certain amount of time—even at Festival time—earning their living.

Each event has a committee. It's up to the general chairman and the executive committee to mesh all the events together.

Some of the committees are small and some are large in size.

SOME OF the individuals who helped to make the 1968 Founders Festival—Farmington's Fourth—a success are: Mrs. Stella DiCicco and Anthony Reda, Miss Founders Festival Pageant; Tom Zoedes, signs and bumper stickers; Frank McGuire and Mary Cheskett, publicity and promotion; Omar Sanderson, concessions; Fred Freidli, teen activities; Jack Cotton and Richard Habicht, special dogs coordinators; and Delos Hamlin, John Diman and Tony Guyer, dignitaries.

General chairmen for the parade are Bud Reaume and Mrs. Janet Dicks. The parade committee members are: Bill Dicks, route; Louis Gilson and Harry McKenzie, decoration of floats and cars; Paul Barbor, bands; Charles Sheer, antique cars; Sylvia Caltett and Mr. and Mrs. Keaton, judges; and Phil Power, presentation of parade awards.

To forestall this, the Masonic Lodge bought the township and city equities in the property for \$42,000 and spent another \$70,000 to remodel the building.

Through the public spirit of the Masons, old "Town Hall" still stands in the center of town, preserving the historic heritage of the area.

## For Kids Only

Special for the kids during Founders Festival days will be the Farmington Business and Professional Women's booth, "Fun Fair Games," beside the Book Corner in Downtown Center.



DRESSED UP—Mark and Kathleen Timins donned old-time costumes to attend the 1967 Festival parade. The reasoning was—it's founders day, isn't it?

## Masonic Temple Building Is Farmington Landmark

Farmington's Masonic Temple, that beautiful Victorian building, on the triangle of land in the center of town, has been a town and township landmark since 1876.

The story of the temple is intertwined between the Masons and the township. At one time, the building was known as "Town Hall."

THE STORY goes like this—

## Masons Set Horse Show

The Farmington Founders Festival second annual All Western Horse Show all day Saturday, July 27, will offer a thrill a minute with 23 events scheduled.

Included are flag races, musical stunts, barrel bending, jumping, reining, a pickup race, classes in horsemanship and speed and action and a precision drill exhibition by the Farmington Township Mounted Police Auxiliary.

SPONSORED by the Farmington Masonic Lodge Temple Association, all this will take place from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., at 12 Mile and Farmington Rds. Chairman is Jack Curry, General show chairman is Ralph Stuller.

Floyd Cline will serve as judge, Corwin Moore as ringmaster and Roy Head as announcer. Local businesses have donated trophies and six ribbons for each class. This phase of the show has been arranged by a committee headed by Mrs.

In the year 1875, Farmington village and township were growing so rapidly, adding to the duties and responsibilities of the local government, township officials decided to build a "Township Hall."

Learning of the decision, the Farmington Masonic Lodge (organized in 1863) proposed that the lodge pay part of the construction costs for the purpose of using the upper story as

lodge room. Agreement was made on a contract whereby the lodge paid \$1,150 towards the construction costs and received a perpetual lease on the upper story.

THE "TOWN HALL" was started in 1875 and completed in 1876 by Johnson S. Prall, of Pontiac, for the sum of \$4,200.

The style of architecture was a mixture of Victorian, French Renaissance and certain innovations which Prall used in all his buildings.

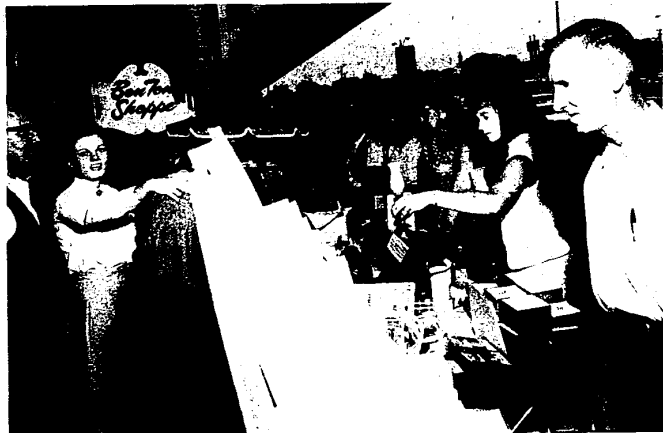
In 1905 the upper story was modernized with electricity. This proved adequate until 1915 when the Township and the Masons decided to build an addition to the west side at a cost of \$6,200, with the lodge paying \$3,500.

In 1962, the township offices moved to new quarters and fears were the building would be razed.

Not to forget the youngsters, there will be ponies for them to ride.

SGT. JAMES BOSWELL is heading the efforts of the mounted police. The mounted officers will lead the festival parade and will participate in the grand entry and flag presentation ceremonies at the horse show. The drill exhibition will follow these.

Tickets to the horse show may be purchased at the gate or from any member of the Masonic Temple Association.



BARGAINS GALORE—The merchants stage sidewalk sales during the Founders Festival.

Last year the bargain hunters had great fun in the Downtown Center.

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