

# BICENTENNIAL EDITION

## Farmington Bugle

"The Only Sound Worth Reading"

### History of Farmington

#### First Settlement

The first settlement in Farmington township, was made by Jonah Marchant, October 10, 1827, when he occupied a log cabin built on the northwest quarter of section 12. This house became the nucleus of what was known as the Marchant settlement which led in its turn to the settlement of the town of Farmington. Abraham, the son of Jonah, was the first white child born in the township. The Marchants came from Virginia and were industrious, religious people. Jonah and his brother, Abraham, both married daughters of Daniel Brown of Manchester, Ohio and thus the Browns became identified with the early history of this section. One brother finally located at Galesburg and became the owner of the Brown compiler works.

In 1827, came also Ahira Jones and settled on Section 1, just northeast of the present town of Farmington. He came, originally from Kentucky, having spent two years in Canton before locating at Farmington. In the same year, Charles and Theodore Sargent also settled on part of section 1, Mrs. Sargent being a Brown.

#### G. W. LITTLE

G.W. Little, who was born in Hampstead, N.H., came to Illinois by way of New Orleans and St. Louis. From St. Louis, he went to Quincy, thence to Peoria. From Peoria he came out to the Marchant settlement, bought ten acres of land from Hiram Palmer, and with him and Joseph Cone, plotted and laid out the town of Farmington, October 9, 1824. The town took its name from Farmington, Conn., whence Joseph Cone had come. Having had considerable experience in mercantile business in Boston where he had gone at the age of seventeen, Mr. Little immediately prepared to open a store on his property on North Main Street. Here, he later erected a swelling-house. Being musically gifted, Mr. Little had been a member of Lowell Mason's choir in Boston, and on the organization of the Presbyterian church in Farmington, he was made chorister. When, later, the Congregational church was organized, he took the same position there and held it until within a few years of his death. When Farmington Post Office was established, Mr. Little was made postmaster serving for several years. He also held the office of township treasurer for a period of fifty-three years. A man of keen intellect and shrewd business ability, he was a potent factor in the community for many years.

#### SETH LITTLE

Seth Little came later in 1827 and settled near Jonah Marchant, among the headwaters of a creek which to this day bears his name—Little's Creek.

#### JOSEPH CONE

In 1832 came Joseph Cone, a descendant of General Cone of Revolutionary fame. After remaining a few months, Mr. Cone returned to Connecticut and in 1833 again started west, this time bringing his family with him. They traveled by water via the Erie Canal, Lake Erie, the Ohio Canal, the Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois rivers; being four weeks on the journey. Mr. Cone with Hiram Palmer and G.W. Little laid out the

town of Farmington. The little park in Farmington was a gift from Mr. Cone, on the condition that it be kept forever as a park. He was very active in promoting the building of the railroad through Farmington.

#### DEACON LUTHER BIRGE

Deacon Luther Birge, a native of Connecticut, came to Farmington, in 1836, having traveled six weeks by water to reach his destination. He settled on the northeast quarter of section 11 on the brow of the hill just southwest of town. Mr. Birge was a carpenter by trade and combined that work with that of farming. He was one of the charter members of the Congregational church. Mr. Birge was an ardent abolitionist and his house was a station on the underground railroad and many a fleeing black owed his freedom to the Deacon's resourcefulness. He was also a believer in Woman's Suffrage and had the courage of his convictions.

#### PHINEAS CHAPMAN

Phineas Chapman and his family came from Connecticut. Mr. Chapman secured land lying south of Fort Street and east of Main. With his son-in-law, Asa D. Reed, laid out Chapman and Reed's addition to the town. Mr. Chapman gave to the city a certain plot of ground to be used for the building of a school house, now occupied by the Chapman and Junior High School buildings. P.P. Chapman, his son, was actively identified with the business interests of Farmington during the sixties and seventies. He at one time owned a grocery, a planning mill and foundry, a lumber yard, and was chief stockholder in the first coal mine opened in Farmington. He was active in all civic and church matters, being closely identified with the Congregational church.

#### MORGAN HEATON, SR.

Next to Mr. Little in opening a store was Morgan Heaton Sr., who came west from New York state in May 1837 and in the following autumn, opened a general store on the south side of Fort Street on a site occupied until burned out by a fire that destroyed most of the south side in 1837. He later became a druggist.

#### DANIEL TANNER

Daniel Tanner was another of Farmington's pioneers, coming to the settlement in 1833 or 1834. He opened up a carding mill on South Main Street. His son was the first person buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery and the fact is recorded on the monument erected by Mr. Tanner together with the following unique inscription:

"Here in the woods and all alone,  
My weeping parents laid me,  
The wolf and owl were howling round,  
But the grave securely hid me."

#### COL. HARRY PORTER

In 1837, Col. Harry Porter came with his family from New York and settled on a part of section 12, built a log cabin and opened a blacksmith shop, and later, a wagon shop.

#### AMOS MENDENHALL

The Mendenhall family was closely identified with the early history of Farmington. Amos Mendenhall, the father, came west in 1833, bringing with him a considerable fortune in gold, part of which he invested in the building and equipping of the first flour mill built in Farmington. His son, Ely, was the first miller and for a time the mill flourished, but in the end

proved a losing investment. In 1854, W.E. Mendenhall and son opened the first steam plow shop ever operated in Farmington. It closed down in 1857.

#### REED BROTHERS

The Reed Brothers, A.D. and Horatio, were pioneer dry goods merchants, opening a store at an early date, and later building a substantial brick building long known as Reed's block. A.D. Reed married a daughter of Phineas Chapman and in conjunction with his father-in-law, plotted the addition to the town known as Chapman and Reed's Addition. Later, the Reeds sold their interests to A.W. Richards.

#### A.W. RICHARDS

A.W. Richards, successor to the Reeds, came to Farmington from Kentucky, in 1833 and, after clerking for the Reeds for a year bought their business and the residence of A.D. Reed on the south side of Vernon Street. Mr. Richards married the daughter of G.W. Little.

#### STETSON FAMILY

The Stetson family was another that allied with the early business interests of Farmington. Deacon J.S. came from Oswego County, N.Y., in 1851 and, for a time, engaged in the general merchandise business. He was actively interested in building up the Baptist Church. One of his sons, George, was one of the founders of the bank, later known as the Steenburg bank. He also carried on a dry goods store until 1875 when he sold out and moved to Storm Lake, Iowa.

#### F.W. HATCH

F.W. Hatch, the veteran livery man of Farmington, came west in 1839, and located on the land now occupied by the Electric Light office and the buildings extending through to Vernon Street. Here he first opened a wagon shop and later established a livery barn where for more than forty years he served the public. After the coming of the railroad, he ran a hack to the depot and carried mail and express.

#### WILLIAM CALDWELL

William Caldwell, the veteran postmaster of Farmington, first came from Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1836. He was cabinet maker. He came to Farmington in 1841, returning to Pennsylvania. He came back to Farmington in 1855. In 1860 he was made postmaster and held this office until 1885.

#### DOCTORS

The first doctor to practice in Farmington was Dr. Caldwell, who died in 1849. Later came Drs. Clapp, Christy, Nelson, Plummer, Johnson, Ewany, Warner, Hickman, Duntion, and Conklin. The most familiar name is that of Dr. John Gregory.

#### INDIANS

During the Marchant Settlement days Indian troubles, lead by Blackhawk, menaced the early settlers. Also just four miles north of the Settlement was a large band of Potawatomes at Kickapoo Grove. These Indians were friendly and helped the early settlers. One pioneer family became ill and the Indians nursed them back to health. Another farmer planted his corn and returned east to fetch his bride, and the Indians, though hungry, never touched his corn.

#### BUILDING OF THE FORT

The Black Hawk War induced such a panic among the people in Farmington that they built a fort on the eastern edge of the town and prepared for a siege as well as defense, digging a well within the stockade. This place was formerly known as the Mound, but the principal street became known as Fort Street. This fort was a large square surrounded by split logs, some 10 or 12 feet long set on end and deeply set in the ground. Two large block houses were also built at opposite corners of the enclosure. This was considered a very complete and formidable work for the Indian warfare. The settlers from the surrounding country took refuge there, which is shown by the fact that a grave made within the stockade, became a nucleus of a neighborhood cemetery where were buried members of many pioneer families: the Marchants, Sargents, Chases, Porters, Deuels, and many others. In 1879 and 1880 when the property was about to pass out of the Porter family, the graves were opened and the remains were moved to the city cemetery. Presently this site is used by the city pumping station. The principal street leading past the old fort site was named Fort Street and the addition of this area was named Fort Hill Addition.

#### HOTELS

The first hotel was opened in Farmington in 1836 by Jacob Mason and was continued by his widow and son. It was located at the northwest corner of Main and Fort Streets. Peter Cartwright and Richard Haney were guests at the Mason House. The next hotel was opened by Col. Smith and wife on North Main Street in the early 50's. Later the name was changed to the Expelgor House. Later it became known as the Palace Hotel. Today, the hotels having passed out of existence, there is a motor inn, known as White House Motel on North Main Street.

#### ILLINOIS

##### ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

An Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Farmington, October 1833, Joseph Cone and his son, Henry, were the most uncompromising Abolitionists and Luther Birge, a carpenter, was the most active. The route of the Underground Railroad was from Quincy, Mendon, Vermont, Canton, to Farmington, then north to Galesburg, Princeton, and to the North. Luther Birge aided some of the Negroes in their escape from their masters.

##### INTERESTING FACTS

- 1858-Lincoln gave a speech at the corner of Main and Fort Streets.
- 1899-Local Telephone Company organized.
- 1925-Nov. 11, Soldier and Sailor Memorial dedicated.
- 1927-Paving the business section at a cost of \$200,000.
- 1937-July 12, newly constructed \$125,000 Sewage Disposal Plant put in operation.
- 1938-Mike Grebe entered West Point.
- 1961-Sept. 17, 1:58 p.m., Ralph Tuttle, mayor, dialed directly.
- 1962-New Mercury lights
- 1967-New Post Office Building dedicated at 67 West Fort Street.
- 1974-Greg Melville entered West Point.

## Coal Mines

The industry that has stood above all others in point of material value in Farmington has been her coal mines. Coal is everywhere under farms and the surrounding area. Here are found seven distinct veins but all are not suitable for mining. In 1849, T. J. Burbridge and associates sank a shaft west of town and began producing coal. This was known as "Gobbier's Knob." The next mine of more improved methods was the P. P. Chapman mine in 1873 near the Q Depot and from 1880 followed the development of mines so fast it is hard to accurately follow them. There was a mine north known as The Sundry Creek Coal Company, under the management of Jos. Whitehead in about 1885. This later became known as the Nickel Plate. There was a mine near the M. and St. L. tracks. The mine was established by T. J. and Daniel Burbridge. Geo. Westerby's mine was opened in 1903 and was soon followed by the Monarch Mine. The Silver Creek Colliery Co., opened a mine about 2½ miles west of town about 1912. Next the Bingel Mine was

opened. In 1900, Deitwig and McElwee opened a mine on the west edge of town, and in 1904 another about 1½ miles south on the Q. Other mines that were developed in their locality were the Westerby Bro. mine northeast of town in 1924. John Balagna operated the Nickel Plate Mine.

Early in 1933 Midland Electric Coal Corp. began open-pit mining operations around the Middlegrove-Farmington area. During the years of the strip mines people came from all over the world to see them in operations. In 1961, the largest shovel in the world at that time was put in operation. In 1971, the tippie was removed and in its place a central machine shop was erected. At one time 275 men and women were employed at the Middlegrove Mine. An interesting phenomena was uncovered when the big shovel at the No. 5 mine of Midland Electric Coal Corp. picked up fossils of snails. These snails existed 250 millions of years ago in the Farmington area where apparently the climatic conditions were just right.

## Churches

The first religious services were held in Jonah Marchant's log cabin in 1826. Rev. Asa D. West was the pastor of Circuit Rider. Peter Cartwright and Rev. Richard Haney with Henry Summers kept the organization growing where in 1833 a log structure was built on the lot opposite the present Methodist Church. The Presbyterian and Congregational churches followed. Joseph Cone, Geo. W. Little and others were members of the Congregational organization as early as 1836. From this group was established the Presbyterian church. One of the leaders was John Simpson and his family. They erected a small brick church on the corner of Main and Court streets. This was in the forties. In 1843 the First Congregational Church of Farmington was formed. The present Presbyterian church was erected in 1865. The Baptist church was organized in Farmington in 1857 with such pioneer citizens as the Masons, Harpers, Stetsons, Bakers, and others as trustees. In 1859

they purchased the church which was erected by the Wesleyans. The present church was erected in 1873.

The Universalist Church was erected some time near 1840. The Heatons, Coy, Randalls, and Masons, were some of the early citizens who supported it. After the church membership declined, the building was later used for entertainment and was familiarly known as the Old Opera House.

The Spiritualists were also quite active in those early days. Passing from the scene was the quaint little Episcopal church built in 1851. The first pastor was Rev. John Wilkinson.

The first Methodist Church was built in 1833. Before this they held Methodist class meetings and they were held in the little school houses. Early ministers were Rev. Atkinson, R. M. Morse, J. S. Milsap, Thomas Watson and W. C. Cummings. The first resident pastor was Henry Summers. The next church was built in 1865. In 1903

# Great American Happenings

From a Great American **BANK**



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1846: A new revolution is growing.

No violence this time. No wars. Just an industrial revolution. Our economy is healthy, and the good things in life are at our fingertips. We're learning to use our heads instead of our hands. To develop ideas that make machines that do the work in our businesses and in our homes. Now, we have a telegraph. A rotary press. Even a machine that sews everything from clothes to shoes. It's an invention of Elias Howe, and we're not too interested in it at first. He takes his idea to an English corset manufacturer and comes home to find that his sewing machine's reputation got here before him. It's a very popular item. Popular with the people, Elias Howe has taught us how to sew.

Some Larger - None Better

# TRIVOLI STATE BANK

16 East Fort

Ph. 24

Member F.D.I.C.

Trivoli, Illinois



another church was built and the present edifice was erected in 1923.

The Free Methodists erected an edifice on Wall Street in 1907, the Seventh Day Adventists on West Fort near the Q tracks in 1908.

#### NAZARENE CHURCH

In December, 1952, Rev. C.W. Snyder, pastor of the Canton East Side Church of the Nazarene, discovered that a vacant church building, formerly the Seventh Day Adventist Church, was for sale. The present lot was purchased and the building was moved on to it. This is on West Fort, west of the R.R.

In August, 1953, the church was officially organized by Dr. Lyle E. Eckley, District Superintendent of the Northwest Illinois District Church of the Nazarene. Jim Carver was called as first pastor and served until 1955.

The church basement was built in 1957, during the three-year term of the second pastor, William Morah. Since then the pastors of the church have been C.L. Richards, Kenneth Oathout, Russell Knudson, Glenn Jordan, and Duane Rensberry. In 1965, the new sanctuary was built.

#### ST. MATTHEWS CATHOLIC CHURCH

There were a few Catholics living in or near Farmington as early as 1859. Father Thomas O'Gara of Kickapoo attended Farmington occasionally. The small frame church on West Fort St. was built in 1904 and completed in 1905. By 1949 it was apparent that the steady increase of the congregation would necessitate the erection of a new church. The West Fort Street site proved to be inadequate for a new church and parish hall. Three acres on East Vernon Street were purchased from Edwin Clark. Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sunday, May 6, 1956. The new church was dedicated March 31, 1957.

#### FARMINGTON BIBLE CHURCH

The Farmington Bible Church was organized December 1953. They erected a frame church building on North Elmwood Road. They purchased the parsonage from the Baptist Church and had it moved next to the church.

#### THE SON HOUSE

The Son House, a Christian Coffee House, was established in 1975 and meetings are held at 94 East Fort Street.

#### TRANSPORTATION

The pioneers first used ox teams for all hauling, then came the horse for all practical purposes, hauling their home products to the long market points, either Peoria, or Reed's landing on the Illinois River at Liverpool where all merchandise used by our people was shipped from. Then came the stage coach for mail and passenger service connecting Farmington with the outside world. There was a stage running between Farmington and Elmwood and one between Peoria and Farmington. These made semi-weekly trips carrying mail and passengers. On the opening of the C.B. and L. railroad, the Elmwood stage was discontinued, but the line running to Peoria was continued until the opening of the Iowa Central railroad in 1881, which later became the Minneapolis and St. Louis. An electric line was built from Farmington through Fulton County under the name of the Illinois Electric Company, affording a fine means of travel through the county. There were numerous coal mines along the route which supplied sufficient passengers-coal miners going to and from the pits. With the coming of automobiles and better roads there was a drastic loss of passenger revenue. The last run of the interurban system was midnight, September 13, 1928.

With the advent of the automobile there was a need for better roads. Permanent hard roads were built. Farmington formed a hub at the junction for route No. 8 from El Paso to Burlington, No. 78 from Kewanee to Quincy, and No. 97 from Farmington to Burlington. The two highways through Farmington in 1976 are Routes 78 and 116.

#### LIBRARY

Public reading rooms were established in Farmington in 1899. In 1900 a two-mill tax was voted for a free public library. In 1906 the present site of the library was purchased from Mrs. J.S. McCoy and the building was erected with funds granted by the Andrew Carnegie Fund. The building was dedicated January 18, 1907. The library joined the Western Library System June 3, 1966, which brings more services to the public.

#### BANKS

The Caldwell's established some banking facilities down at their lumber yard near the C. B. and Q. The first real banking institution was known as Stetson and Caldwell. This was in 1869. The business changed in 1871 to Stetson and Littlewood, then to Littlewood and Co. Mr. A.C. Steenburg, in 1883, became financially interested and the firm became Littlewood and Steenburg. The firm later became A.C. Steenburg and Co. Mr. Jack Mason conducted the Farmington Bank in the middle of the Fort Street block, but it was of short duration. The Steenburg bank ceased business in January, 1933.

#### BANK OF FARMINGTON

The immediate predecessors of the Bank of Farmington were the firm of Rose and Vandersloot who operated a real estate and safety deposit business in the building

at 74 East Fort Street, and Nathaniel Meeker who purchased the business of Rose and Vandersloot and established the Meeker Banking House. Mr. Meeker sold out to Jackson Mason and George Ross who operated an independent bank until January 1, 1903, when Mr. J.W. Parks and son E.L. Parks together with two daughters officially opened the Bank of Farmington.

Upon the death of his father in 1906, Mr. E.L. Parks became president, and later his son, Don, became cashier. The Bank of Farmington reopened immediately following the bank moratorium in 1933. In 1942 the Bank of Farmington moved to 15 East Fort Street. In 1946 Mr. E.L. Parks and Mr. Donald Parks negotiated the sale of the Bank of Farmington to a group of local stockholders. Directors were: Dr. E.K. Dimmitt, Ralph W. Gentle, Louis Higgs, Joseph V. Toohill, Thomas N. Higgs, John H. Michela, and Paul A. Smith.

In 1969 a new bank building was erected

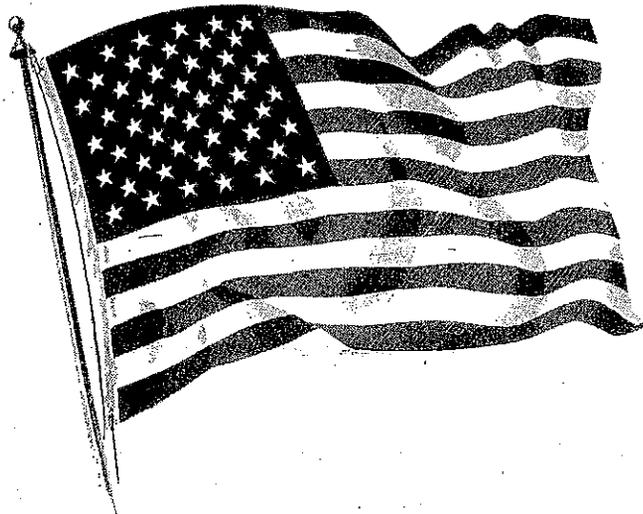
at the northwest corner of West Fort and North Main Street. At that time the present Capital Stock was \$200,000.00, and officers were: Joseph V. Toohill, chairman of the board; Louis W. Higgs, president; John H. Michela, vice president; Glenn E. Kimbrell, cashier; and Kathleen Rolando, assistant cashier. Louis Higgs retired in 1973.

#### FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS

The Farmington Home and Loan Association merged with the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Peoria and opened up a branch office, Sept. 16, 1974, in the old bank building at 15 East Fort Street. The directors of the Home and Loan Assoc. became members of the Advisory Board for the new institution. They are Clyde Barley, John Baudino, Steve Ferro, Ben Unsicker, L.J. Cuddington, Robert Balabna, and Kenneth Connors. Ron Wasson of Farmington is the manager of the branch office of First Federal in Farmington.

# 1776

# 1976



## Farmington

### BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

### SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 1976

### COME AND JOIN IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- 11:00 A.M. - Entries in Baking Contest, Township Park,**  
Categories: Breads, Rolls, Cakes, Cookies, Candy, Cake Decorating
- 12:45 P.M. - Presentation of Bicentennial Commemorative Stone**  
At City Park, Program, Posting Of The Colors,  
Brief History, Local Dignitaries, Etc.
- 1:30 P.M. - Family Picnic At Township Park**  
Refreshments Provided For Children
- 2:00 P.M. - Organized Games For The Younger Set**
- 3:00 P.M. - App. - Fashions Through The Ages, Style Show**  
Commentator - Stella Threw
- 4:00 P.M. - App. - Musical Group; Mustache And Beard Contest**  
Baking Contest Winners And The Civil War Pageant.

## Newspapers

The first Farmington paper was one called Journal published in 1856-57. The first paper of any note or duration was the Farmington News, established by J.D. Hurd in 1872. About 1879 Mr. J.A. Brown started the Farmington People which was issued in Canton for about two years. On Feb. 3, 1881, J.I. Wilson purchased the News plant from Mr. Hurd and gave the newspaper the title of The Bugle. And to Mr. Wilson, Dr. Brown sold the Farmington People. In June 1882 the Brown family again embarked in the business with the paper known as the Home Visitor. On Oct. 20, 1883, S.P. Wood purchased the Bugle from J.I. Wilson. During 1883-4 J.R. Riblet who was employed by Mr. Wilson on the Bugle established a paper called the Local Record, which was issued from the basement of the old Daniel Tanner home on S. Main but was discontinued after a year. The Farmington Democrat was started during the fall of 1884 by Homer Camp. It was started for campaign purposes and was discontinued in about eight months.

## Early Businesses

Some of the early businesses in Farmington included a brick making establishment, barrel stave makers, a cabinet-making business, a wagon shop, a steam motor works, a wood-working shop, foundry, a woolen mill, a carding and feed mill, a sawmill, flour mills, a shoemaker, a jeweler, a large shipping plant of live and dressed poultry, livery stable, draying, and others.

### F.P. CHAPMAN FOUNDRY

The Old Chapman Foundry was purchased by George Woodruff and the sturdy oak timbers and lumber were used in the erection of his new home on the corner of North Main and East Fulton Street. (The Polito corner)

## Present Businesses

### HOWARD'S POTATO CHIP FACTORY

Flossie and Claude Howard started the Potato Chip Factory in 1938, in the building on South Wall Street, formerly the Free Methodist Church. Flossie continued the business after her husband's death, in 1987, until her retirement in 1973.

### FARMINGTON CEMENT FACTORY

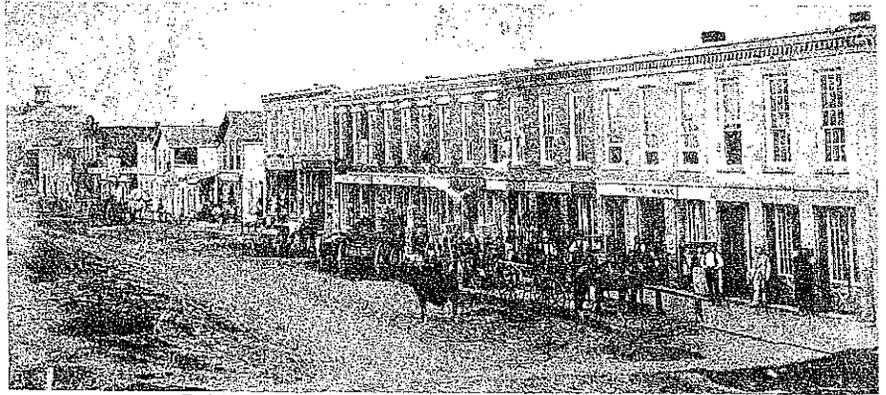
The Farmington Cement Factory was started by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lane about 1910. Others who were associated with the firm were Bruce Bear, Edgar Wood, and M. V. Sparr. Lee Farmer became a partner after he moved to Farmington. Fence posts and burial vaults were made. During 1932-33 a group of Farmington men went to Southern Illinois to build bridges, and also, constructed some in Central Illinois. During the years this company has furnished employment for many and burial vaults are still being manufactured at this plant.

## Oak Ridge

The first burial was in 1835. In 1879-80 the graves in the neighborhood cemetery within the stockade of the fort were opened and the remains moved to the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

John Young, who lived in the country northwest of Farmington, gave the first financial gift to the Cemetery Board in the amount of \$1500. At that time there were no records of burials. So one of the first jobs was to plot the cemetery in blocks. This work was done by O.K. Morgan. Many of the grave markers had fallen over, grass had been permitted to grow wild. There was no systematic care or attention given to the graves.

C.C. Butler donated the main entrance gateway and the fence which runs along the north side of the grounds. Later the entire cemetery was fenced with wire fencing. O.K. Morgan donated the west entrance gateway. New bridges were constructed, tile was laid to carry off the surface water. The grass was mowed, all grave markers and foot slabs were set in concrete. The Soldier's Monument, standing near the south drive was erected in 1892, a gift of the citizens of Farmington as a memorial to her sons who had fought and died for their country. A German cannon that was captured by the American forces in France was given to the City of Farmington by Congressman King of Galesburg. This cannon was set up near the Soldier's Monument.



Early street scene in Farmington. Note old three-story

school in the distance, which was destroyed by fire in 1890.



Farmington's first banks, Littlewood and Steenburg,

Bankers; established in the year 1868.

*The Spirit*

"Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious political . . . peace, commerce, honest friendship with all nations . . . the support the state governments in all their rights as the most competent administrations of our domestic concerns . . . and the surest bulwarks against anti-republic tendencies . . . the preservation of the general government in its whole constitution vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad . . . freedom religion, freedom of the press, freedom of person under the protection of the habe corpus; and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright ex

"We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal . . ."

Declaration of Independence

*Farmington*



Farmington Public Library built in 1906.

## Township Park

About a mile and a half south of town, east from Route 78 is a fine township park. In 1936 fifteen acres of land was purchased from Walter Simpson. A dam was built and a lake created by WPA. From 1949 improvements have been made such as landscaping, a ball diamond, playground equipment, shuffleboards, a wading pool, and a shelter. The Farmington Junior Woman's Club donated much of the playground equipment and the wading pool. This park is being enjoyed by the people in the Farmington area.

### DOCTOR JACOBS PARK

Doctor Jacobs Park was created in 1971 out of need for more recreational facilities. The Park was named for Doctor Frank D. Jacobs because of his unselfish con-

tributions to the people of Farmington and his belief in sports for young people.

The plan was formulated by the City Council but much of the development was done through donated time and monetary contributions of countless organizations and individuals.

First of all, two ball diamonds were built. Then trees were planted, grass sown, tennis courts and playground equipment were built. The park not only facilitates the complete summer recreation program, but also hosts the Farmer's Fair.

The dedication of the Doctor Jacobs Park was in June 1974. There is a larged granite stone set at the entrance as a memorial to a man who was loved and respected by all. Giving tribute to Doctor Jacobs at the dedication were Doctor Coleman, Canton, a very close associate, and Mr. Russell Troxel, Bloomington, one of the doctor's closest friends.

## Early Fires

Farmington has had her share of fires, yet has always managed to rise again. At an early date fire swept the north side of the business district, but the buildings were soon replaced. June 23, 1870, the plow shop of Pawcett and Caywood was destroyed. In 1873, a disastrous fire again swept the north side after which an ordinance was passed forbidding the erection of frame buildings within the business district. In 1897 fire destroyed a number of business buildings on the south side. In 1880 the three story High School building was burned. There was no fire department and no water supply to reach the shingle roof of the three-story building. This disaster led to the building of the city water works and organization of a volunteer department. In 1901 a store, the Masonic and Odd Fellows Halls burned. An unidentified man burned to death in jail. In 1942 a fire destroyed buildings known as the Mason Corner on Main Street and West Fort Street. The post office, a shoe store, and others burned and some mail was also burned.

## Sports In Review

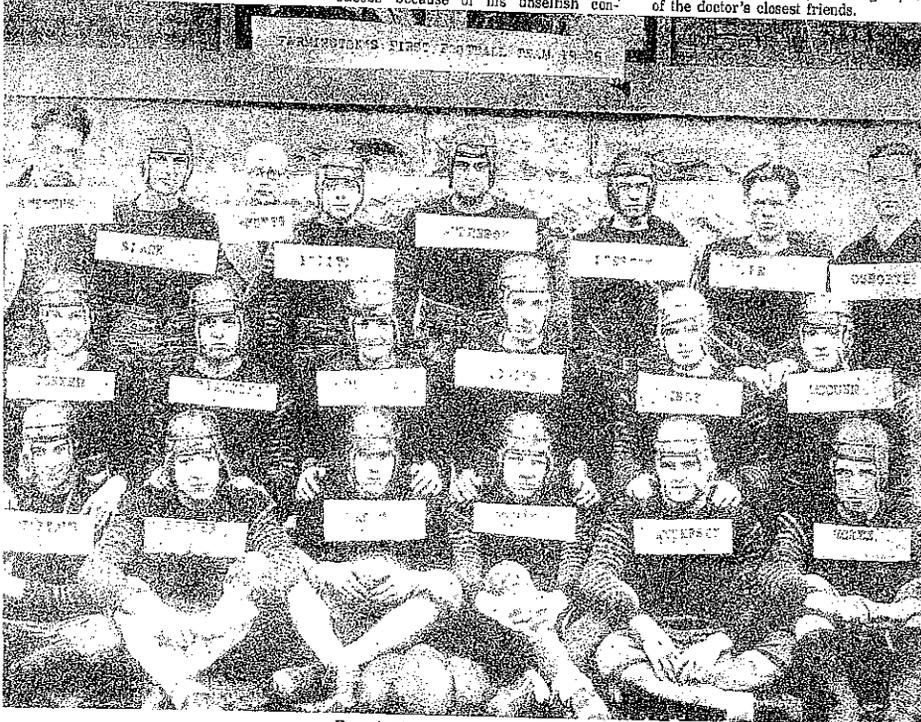
Baseball has been played in Farmington for a long time. One of the earliest teams was the team of 1917 called the Farmington Fans. Games were played on a diamond next to the old depot. Some of the members of that team were Bill Wilson, Joe and Clem Yonkowski, Eddie Connors, Bill Well, and Dewey Bohannon. Wilson and Bohannon had tryouts for the Majors. Farmington's contribution to the Majors was Bill Tuttle who played at Davenport in 1951 and moved up to play with the Detroit Tigers 1954-57, Kansas City Athletics 1958-61, and the Minnesota Twins from 1961-63.

The first football team at the High School was in 1925. Some of the members were Wilbur Slack, Tony Polito, Earl Anderson, Stan Preston, Ralph Wake, Lance Conner, Pelio Biancini, Amos Mustard, Pat Higgins, Charles Wisby, Bob McCuen, Roddy Williams, Tom Brewer, Bill Mason, Darwin Morin, Walter Anderson and Roland McKee.

A full athletic program has been continued in the schools. A number of graduates, Jim Dudley, Gene Muzzerali, Ron Patterson, Jon Clayton, Joe Almasi, Roger Tuttle, Jim Perelli, Larry Wilcoxon, Dave Jacobs, Dave Giagnoni, Danny Brown, Randy Welch, Mark Bolton, and Bob Smith have entered the coaching field. Ron Patterson took a team to the State Basketball Tournament twice.

A league for boys was started in 1949 and has grown until there are leagues for boys and girls starting at the age of eight.

The Farmington Rotary Club sponsored a Summer Recreational Program from 1948 until a tax was passed. The program is continuing today.



Farmington's first football team—the year 1925.

*of America*

ellation which has gone before us, and guided our steps through revolution and re-ormation."

\* \* \*

hat's how Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, described e American spirit . . . a certain sense of fairness and balance born of a fervent de-ication to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On this . . . our nation's 200th rthday . . . we honor the memory of that great man and renew our allegiance to the idelines he set forth for the care and preservation of our basic American freedoms.

*the Bugle*

"Error of opinion may be toler-ated where reason is left free to combat it."

### FARMINGTON LODGES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- I.O.O.F. No. 44, organized July 24, 1849 with 5 charter members
- Rebekah No. 155, organized November 23, 1893 with 28 charter members.
- Past Noble Grands, organized January 20, 1938.
- Masonic Lodge No. 192, organized October 6, 1856.
- Order of Eastern Star No. 142, organized in 1879.
- Past Matrons.
- Knights of Pythias, organized in 1900.
- Pythian Sisters, organized in 1903.
- Past Chief Club, organized in 1943.
- Moose No. 1571, organized in 1914. in K.P. Hall. Building built in 1921.
- Women's Relief Corps No. 232, organized on November 23, 1894.
- Farmington Woman's Club, organized June 1917 with 71 members.
- P.E.O. Chapter AE, organized March 7, 1912 with 9 members.
- Rotary Club, organized 1935.
- Farmington Junior Woman's Club, organized May, 1941.
- American Legion Post No. 140, organized 1919-1920.
- Women's Auxiliary, organized 1931.
- Women of the Moose No. 470, organized December 9, 1920.
- P.T.A., present P.T.A. organized 1952.
- D.A.R. Farmington Chapter, organized Jan. 8, 1939.
- Farmington Business and Professional Women, organized March 22, 1961.
- Nurses Club, organized September, 1949.
- Jaycees, organized May 6, 1968.

## Recent School History

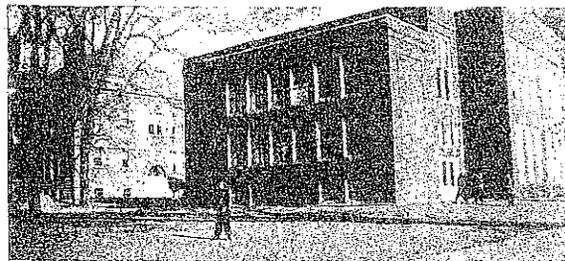
Recent additions at the high school include a field house, shops, band rooms, additional shower and office facilities, with the old gym rebuilt for auditorium and cafeteria. These were completed in 1966.

In 1955 the Grade School Board (District One) purchased the Tyler property adjacent to the Harris School on the east, and had the lot cleared ready for use when funds were available.

In 1958 six classrooms, an all-purpose room and cafeteria were built on the Tyler property adjoining Harris School. At the Junior High School an all-purpose room was added also.

In 1967 classrooms, and agriculture shop, were added to the High School with the metal shop and office areas being remodeled.

Farmington East Unit No. 324 was organized July 1, 1969. This included Trivoli, Hanna City, and Logan Units. A new Chapman School was constructed just west of the old school and was occupied in March 1969. The old school was demolished in August 1969 and the entire area was blacktopped for a playground. In 1969 the old bank building in Trivoli was purchased in May for \$6,000. This became the central office for Farmington East Unit No. 324.



"Our Old High" School in the background and the junior high building in the foreground.

## Log Cabin First School In Farmington Area

According to Mr. Spencer Cone "The first school in this settlement was kept in a log cabin on Ahira Jones' place (north of Farmington), and was taught by Isaac Cutter in 1833. In the summer of 1834 a good hewed-log school house was built on the corner where the First Federal is now, and a good school was kept every winter from this time on regularly. This building was afterwards removed to a lot further south and was long used as a school house."

Mr. John H. Harris in the recollections of 1879 writes: "At the age of five (1846) I started to school at the old log school house which stood on Main Street." He crossed the ravine from his home in the west part of town to the log school.

As Farmington began to expand, there was immediate need for more school room, and a building was erected near the middle of the block on West Street which was known as the White School, and was presided over by several very able instructors, among them William Kellogg, Mr. Hoffman, and Miss Coykendall, who taught later in the three-story school building (Chapman).

During the years of the White School, a little brick school was erected. It was during the life of these two schools that the town was divided into school districts, the White School being in one, and the "little red brick school" in the other.

This did not suffice to supply the needs and we are told two rooms were supplied in the basement of the Congregational Church and served for many years, with teachers to be remembered as Hopkins,

Day, Churchill, and Kendall. This was in the late 1850's.

A select school or Academy during these years was presided over by two brothers, James and William Hill. The one most remembered as Hills Academy was the brick house on North Main Street at the corner of East Court Street. They also conducted school in the brick house on East Vernon Street (torn down in 1956 to make room for the new Catholic Church).

Yet with all these facilities there must have been a growing need for more room, as in 1866 a splendid three-story building was erected on East Fort Street on land, donated by P.P. Chapman (site of the Chapman School). It cost almost \$30,000. It was destroyed by fire, Dec. 9, 1880.

A new building was built in 1891 at a cost of \$25,000, and it received the 1893 World's Fair first premium as a model eight-room school building.

On May 18, 1907 an election was called and bonds to the amount of \$15,000 were voted, and the 4-room Ward School was built on West Fort Street on the site of the Harris home, and the Ward (Harris) School was ready for occupancy at the beginning of school in September 1908. At this time, inside toilets were installed in the Chapman Building.

In 1917 the present Junior High School Building was erected on the south part of the Chapman grounds, facing East Vernon Street. It was used for high school classes and two grades until the completion of the Community High School in 1926. The corner stone of the latter was laid June 6, 1925, and was occupied January 4, 1926. The cost was \$126,000.



Farmington Women of Italian Ancestry. Farmington is made up of many Italian families.

## Fire Departments

### From Church Bells To Rescue Teams

Before the organization of a volunteer fire department, the church bells tolled the alarm and residents grabbed whatever water containers were available and formed a "bucket brigade." Water was supplied by the nearest pump.

On June 18, 1835, the Volunteer Fire Department was organized with Amasa Clark as its first chief. The first equipment was two hand-drawn hose carts. Later they had a horse drawn hook and ladder wagon. The first motorized equipment was purchased around 1917. The Rotary Club donated a two-way radio system. In 1967 a tax supported Fire Protection District was formed known as the Farmington Community Fire Protection District. A new fire house was built on the south east corner of North Cone and East Fulton. This new building was dedicated on May 3, 1970.

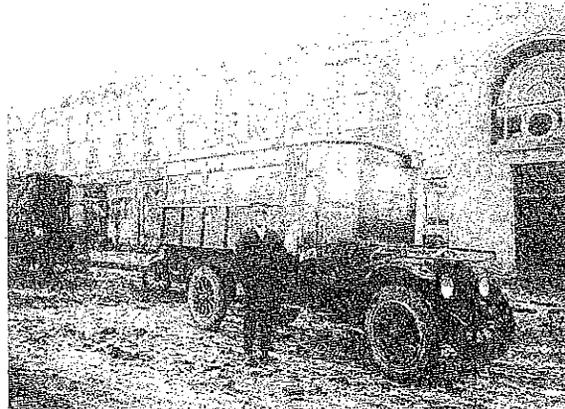
#### RESCUE 1100

On Monday, March 11, 1974 the Farmington Community Fire Protection District put into service the new RESCUE 1100 vehicle. Over \$22,000 was raised through a community effort of fund raising spear-headed by the fire department personnel. The truck was designed by the members of the fire department, and is one that all of the people can be proud of as it is one of the few vehicles in the state that qualifies as a rescue vehicle with patient carrying capabilities.

This new vehicle sports the newest and most up-to-date rescue and medical rescue equipment. Both the cab and van portion of the truck is equipped with radio equipment that is connected to a SYT

Rescue team to contact anyone with a telephone. There is complete rescue and extrication equipment designed for removing victims from auto accidents in a minimum amount of time and patient handling equipment to remove patient with the least amount of pain and lessen the possibility of further trauma because of improper removal. The purpose of the program was to give the citizens of the community and area the fastest possible treatment for emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes, poisonings, overdoses, fractures, auto accidents to name just a few. Recently 2 more men received their certificates from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician, Daryl Phillips and Karl Johnson. They join the original five EMT's: John Higgs, Joe Evans, Don Bridgestock, Hike Johnson and Ken Holmes. These seven men which comprise almost half of the Farmington Fire Department spent between 250-300 hours at St. Francis Hospital Trauma Center preparing themselves to administer artificial respiration, closed heart massage, shock and bleeding control, fracture and splinting, child birth, chest and abdominal injuries, exposure, poisons, dressings and bandaging, and patient handling and specialized rescue. Farmington Rescue 1100 depends on Spoon River Ambulance Service to do the transporting. Over 400 individuals, organizations and businesses donated generously to this project.

Now Rescue 1100 needs to expand service for coronary patients. They need \$5000 and donations are being received for

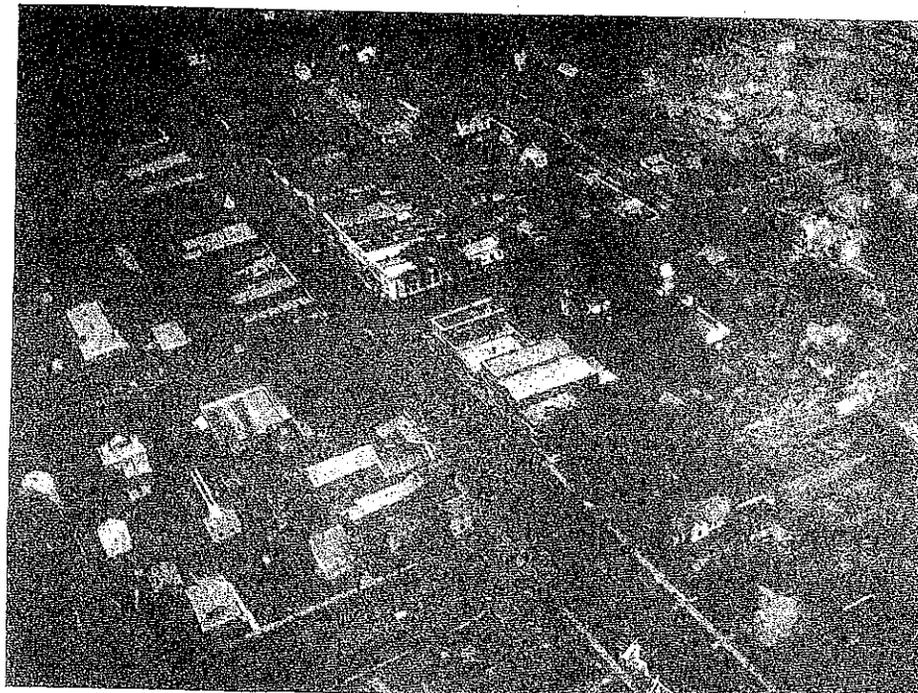


The White Star Bus Line that ran between Canton and Peoria.

Driver of the bus is the late Louis Guidotti of Farmington—Year 1923.



Chapman School, built 1891, premium as a model 3-room



Aerial view of Farmington in the year 1940.

JULY 4, 1876  
 To celebrate the Centennial, people from neighboring towns came. Civil War Veterans aided in arranging a high class program which was held in the (Commons) City Park.  
 A dinner was served in the basement of the Congregational Church for the War Veterans and families.  
 The day was clear and hundreds of people came. About 11:30 a.m., a messenger arrived, sent by the Agent of the C.B. and Q. RR., announcing the death of General George Custer and his entire command, killed by the Sioux in the Battle of the Little Big Horn, several days before. Because of the scarcity of telegraph communication in the West at that time, the message was delayed.

**FARMINGTON OFFICIALS**  
 While Farmington was platted as a town in 1834, it was re-incorporated as a town until 1857, and renewed in 1865. In 1867, it was incorporated as a city.  
 Presidents of the town from 1864 until 1886 were: J.S. Stetson, Lewis R. Caldwell, A.K. Montgomery, Lewis R. Caldwell, J. Coykendall, Frank C. Worden, George Pawcett, J.E. Densel, B.K. Marshall, Riley Bristol, William McCoy, S.S. Harvey, B.S. Ramsey, S.S. Harvey, George Woodruff, J.S. Downin, Samuel Jack, J.H. Cone, J.S. Downin.  
 Mayors of the City of Farmington from 1887 were: C.A. Smith, Hershel Johnson, C.A. Smith, P.E. Kelly, Arthur C. Wood, William A. Guthrie, Roscoe N. Dalton, Walter Bridgestock, Harold Elliott, James Fresta, Jr., Ralph Tuttle, Tony Columbia and R. James Hurst.

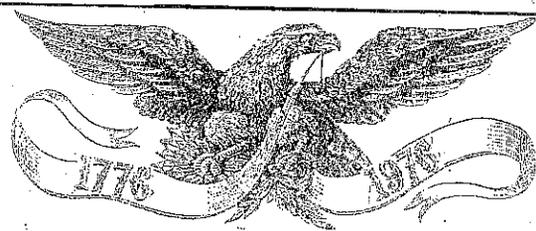


Labor Day celebration by Presbyterian Church. A.R. Cowser home, where the Fire

Department now is. W.T. Robinson home where Dr. Reed's office now stands.

**FARMINGTON CENTENNIAL TABLET (BOULDER) IN CITY PARK**  
 It is a native granite boulder, stood for many years in the middle of Alex McClains' vacant lot back of his home on West Fulton Street, and was finally removed and placed in front of the home occupied by Wm. Robinson, a one time furniture dealer here. After the Robinson family moved from this house, the boulder was secured by Mr. Charles Tracy and set at the south east corner of his house on Pearl and East Street, and was presented to the Centennial Committee for the purpose of holding the Bronze Commemorative Tablet which was unveiled with appropriate services, October 8, 1934.

..Excerpts taken from articles written by Miss Nellie MacDonald and C.M. (Moose) Routsen.  
 Additional research by Mrs. Emory C. Brett, Miss Mary B Wright, and Mrs. Don Saunders.  
 ..Compiled for the Bicentennial Celebration in Farmington Sunday, June 27, 1976.



**SHOP AT THE WRIGHT'S STORE FOR THE MANY SALE ITEMS DURING**

**THE BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND**

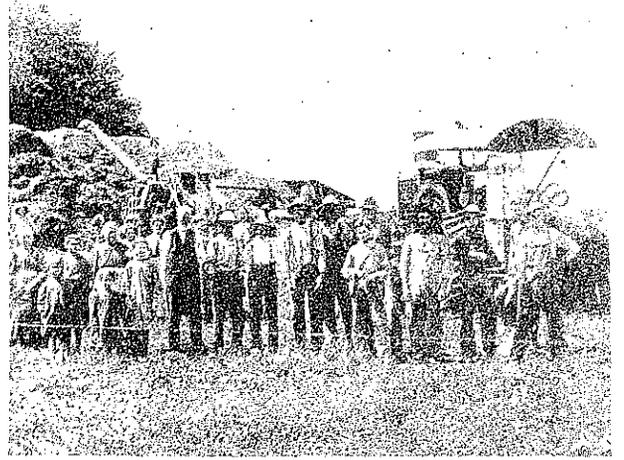
**WRIGHT'S STORE**

**FOR MEN AND BOYS**





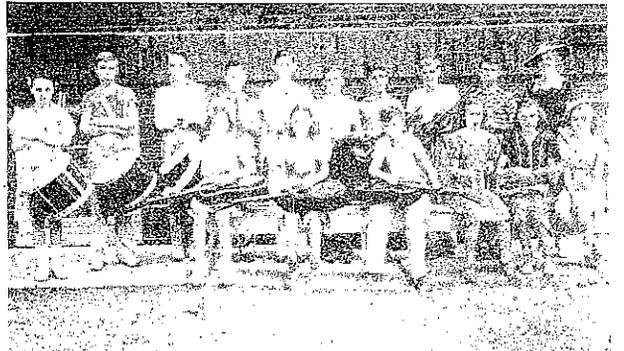
The first WRC Hall and the members meals could be bought for 25c.



One of the first threshing machines and the families that all worked together at threshing time.



This is one of the first schools of Farmington. These are the



First school orchestra year, 1939-1940. Teacher was D. Moore.

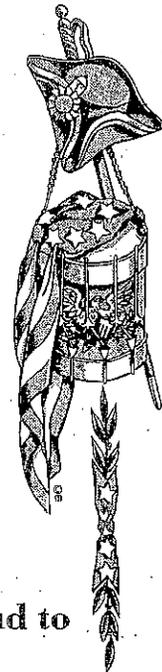


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