

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## Police repudiate harassment charge

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

An accusation by a Farmington bar owner of police harassment has been denied by Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes.

Byrnes says a complaint by William Gard, part owner of the Stein Haus, are ungrounded and that police have shown leniency in ordinance enforcement at the young adult night spot.

Garden has maintained that police are allegedly harassing him because he is a for-

mer Farmington police officer. The police, he said, resent him because he has been successful in his business venture.

"I think one of the reasons the situation got out of hand was because some of the police officers have been too lenient. To most of them, Bill is an old friend," said Byrnes.

"They have a tendency to disregard the problem, sometimes."

While Garden says he has received numerous tickets in the last year, Byrnes says he only has received five tickets in the last four years.

Garden has been given a number of warnings from police officials without being ticketed, said Byrnes.

"I saw some after-hours drinking. Another time a patron walked out of the bar with a drink and the bartender was standing right there at the door," said Byrnes.

In another incident, Garden claimed an employee was ticketed for drinking in the bar past 2:30 a.m. Byrnes said the employee was only given a warning.

"But for every complaint we get at other bars in town, we get 15 or 20 complaints at

his. His establishment attracts the type of patrons, a young crowd, where trouble is bound to happen.

"It's not his fault entirely. One trouble is that he isn't there at night to supervise," said Byrnes.

A store spot between the police and Garden is the parking lot located behind the Stein Haus at Farmington Road and Grand River. Garden said he isn't responsible for what happens in the parking lot.

Byrnes agrees, but says the trouble goes beyond that.

"You better believe that the Stein Haus is a trouble spot. We've had a half dozen incidents where the bouncers have beat the hell out of customers.

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the police from passerbys being harassed by Stein Haus patrons who make obscene suggestions.

Garden said he is moving out of town because of the alleged police harassment. Byrnes denied Garden's accusation that the police are trying to close his place down.

"I don't want to drive him out of town in the last two years I've tried to sit down with him and rectify this situation. I want to work with him in solving this problem," said Byrnes.

Complaints also have been received by

## Elementary schools rescued as trustees balance budget

By RON GARRENSKI

All 17 elementary schools in the Farmington School District will remain open next year.

The school board voted 5-2 Wednesday to keep all the schools operating after agreeing upon several reductions in staff and services that would balance the district's 1976-77 budget.

Board President William Cortiss and Trustee Emma Makinen opposed the motion, saying they believe an elementary school should be closed.

"It was an educationally detestful, politically superb, but fiscally irresponsible decision by the board," Cortiss said after the vote.

"If the millage fails, I think we should close an elementary school and not necessarily Ten Mile," he continued.

"But now the board has voted to lock us in. We're unable to take advantage of that alternative if we have to because the board voted to keep all 17 schools open."

The decision was made by the board at a special budget review meeting Wednesday evening, as it finally acted to calm the confusion of area residents concerning school closings.

At its regular board meeting Tuesday night, trustees adjourned without deciding whether Ten Mile Elementary or another primary school would be closed to save the district more than \$100,000 in operating revenue.

The district had been considering the closing of an elementary school for more than a year, but the possibility became more apparent when the state cut back school aid for the Farmington District last December.

Since then, the board has been studying the school closing issue in order to make up part of the lost state aid funds.

After leaving parents and students "up in the air about the closing of Ten Mile school" Tuesday night, the board assembled the following night before more than 150 concerned parents to consider budget cuts.

These reductions will cut \$11 million from next year's budget.

This \$11 million is the same amount that would be generated by the 2.6-mill increase package June 14.

SEVERAL MAJOR cuts made in the budget balancing were the elimination of 13 elementary teachers, 24 elementary music teachers, 17 secondary teaching positions, two counselors, cutbacks in building cleaning services, reductions in the proposed expansion of academically aided programs and reduced costs for maintenance and building supplies, says District Business Manager William Prisk.

"Under the board's approved balanced budget, the district won't have a funding gap at the end of the 1976-77 school year," Prisk adds. "And that may cause a problem."

Another factor to be considered by the board was a \$200,000 increase in special benefits for district employees by a major hospital insurance carrier.

"We're trying to see if we will have to pay this amount. If we do, the district will have to make further cuts in programs and services to meet this insurance cost," Prisk said.

Administrators prepared a revised budget after the board's May 25 special budget review session. At that session, trustees presented administrators with their recommended budget cuts.

At Tuesday's meeting, Prisk presented the board with the revised version of the budget for their approval Wednesday night at the special meeting.

The board then voted to approve the budget, balancing all accounts while still keeping open all elementary schools.



**Bonnie lass**

Kathy Kellenstock, a sixth grader at Kenbrook Elementary School, represented Scotland at her class international luncheon far held Friday. It featured native dishes from countries all over the world. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Polar bear campaign vet recalls Great War escapade

By LOUISE OKRUTSEY

In 1917, a company of soldiers were sent to Camp Century to train for the Great War in Europe. They were known as "Detroit's Own."

When they returned in 1918, a year after the Armistice, they had been joined by other men from other states to fight on a little-publicized front in Northern Russia, 300 miles south of the city of Archangel.

They called themselves the "Polar Bears."

"They fought a combination of Russian and German forces for a year after the Armistice was signed."

"The first months of 1919 saw the hardest fighting," remembers Alfred Larsen of Farmington Hills. Larsen is the president of the Polar Bear Association.

"They were sent to Siberia to prevent the Germans from establishing submarine bases in Russia."

"I think we really were forgotten," Larsen, 81, said.

"WE WERE fighting for ourselves, then," he said.

They vaguely were aware that other units fighting in Europe had been sent home. "We didn't have a communication system like today," he explains. "We heard that some of the others were being sent home from France."

"My sister and some others chided petitions to get us home," Larsen said.

He was 21 in 1918 when he was sent to fight in Northern Russia. "I wanted to join the Navy, but they had all the men they needed at the time, so I sat back and waited to be drafted," he remembers.

He became a sergeant in the 10th Infantry.

His unit was stationed in England before being sent to Russia. It was in England that the group acquired members from other states.

"They didn't realize they would be sent to Russia."

"No one ever told us that we were going to Russia," he remembers. "Suddenly they began issuing bear underwear."

Those who hadn't guessed their destination came across another clue on the way to northern Russia.

"We began to see huge icebergs along the North Atlantic," Larsen says. "We became suspicious."

THEY ARRIVED in late August, when Archangel's weather is fair and sunny. In the winter they would have to endure temperatures of 50-60 degrees below zero.

"The worst part of the winter was that there wasn't any wind," he said. "The snow stayed piled at six to eight feet."

"When a Russian would dig himself out of his house, the path would run upwards," he said.

"Fences would disappear and you could walk over them. New paths had to be made over the roads. Then, when the snow melted, you could use the old road, again."

Some men found they could get trans-

ported back and forth to school by bus.

"It may be hard to believe, but they were begging for teachers in those years," she said. "I had three years I taught at the Temple Academy near Farmington and then I taught fourth grade for two years in Colerain School in Troy."

Mrs. Dunham, who has lived in Southfield 30 years, substituted at Southfield's John Grace School during the war because of a teacher shortage. She even was transported back and forth to school by bus.

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Mrs. Dunham got married, and while her four children were growing up she went to school nights and during the summer and took correspondence courses to earn her bachelor's degree and a master's in education.

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Alfred Larsen, president of the Polar Bear Association, sits in his Farmington Hills living room and reminisces about his part in the Northern Russian campaign during World War I.

## Carmel Dunham calls it quits after 30 years of devotion

By JACKIE KLEIN

It's been 30 years since Carmel Dunham of Southfield earned \$9 a month teaching eight grades in a little country school house.

With mixed emotions, Mrs. Dunham, 61, is retiring from William Grace School in Farmington where she has taught for 30 years. Her third graders went her with them in fourth grade, but she believes: "It's time to step into the entry-way of the 21st miss the kids because, like most people, I'm still a child at heart," she said, but I'd rather quit now than wait until I'm too old to enjoy it."

Mrs. Dunham has lived through many monumental changes during her long career. Before she started teaching in the BUE country school in Quarry, Mich., she only attended one year of college. Because of the teacher shortage in those days, however, she obtained a special certificate to teach in William Grace School.

Officer Chuck Lee, while on routine patrol, saw a person running from the dealership parking lot.

While investigating the building and parking lot, Lee found a hole in the building's door. At this time he called for backup units and officers Pete Amato and Ben Ziegler assisted in the arrest.

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"I TAUGHT in Farmington's Gill and Eagle schools for three years before going to William Grace," she said. "My salary didn't go very far, but we gave our own produce in our large garden. Teachers made more money today but jobs are scarce. I believe things will level off."

Mrs. Dunham has seen dynamic changes in Southfield since she and her husband owned a small farm, raised cows and rode

horses down Evergreen. It was a simpler time in the city as well as the school room.

Mrs. Dunham has been inundated with retirement parties and she's looking forward to spending time in Fowlerville where she and her husband own a farm and still raise horses.

"I'll have time to enjoy my home and 11 grandchildren," Mrs. Dunham said. "I'm active in the church and I play the organ so I don't expect to be bored."

Even if she remained at William Grace School, Mrs. Dunham wouldn't have to worry about being "pink slipped." She's been there longer than the principal.

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## Police nab suspects in car dealer B&E

Farmington public safety officers arrested two suspects Sunday morning on a charge of breaking and entering Bob Dumas Lincoln-Mercury, 3165 Grand River in Farmington.

Francisbordere Johnson, 34, Highland Park, was arrested Monday in 6th District Court before Judge Michael Hand on the breaking and entering charge.

Bond was set at \$10,000 and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Also arrested by Farmington officers was Joseph Moore, 34, Highland Park. As of Tuesday afternoon, Moore remained to be arraigned on the charge.

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**TOUGH RACE**

With the June 14 school board election and millage increase proposal approaching, five candidates explain why they are vying for a seat on the board. See Page 1.