

## today's hot line

### Stadium Stopped?

Plans for a stadium in Southfield for the Lions and Tigers may have been stopped by action of the Southfield Planning Commission. The commission has recommended that the proposed stadium site be rezoned — for apartments and office use. The recommendation must be approved by the city council and if it is, the stadium will not be located on Farmington Township's eastern border.

## what's inside

### An Unhappy Ghost

A ghost writer is unhappy over this paper's coverage of dress codes, sex education, liberal school trustees, etc. Our ghost is heard and hears a reply from Daniel's Den. Page 3A

### The Favorites

High school football teams are swinging into their league schedules. The favorites: North Farmington and Thurston in the Northwest Suburban League, Bentley in the Suburban Six, Stevenson in the Inter-Lakes. Page 3B

### Team Troubles

The Farmington men who manage the Detroit Red Wings hockey team and the Pistons basketball team have troubles, troubles. Page 2B

### 1,500 Mouths

Unlike the old woman in the shoe, the lady who runs Clarenceville's school lunch program does indeed know what to do to feed them properly. Here's an inside look at how a nutrition program runs. Page 8A

### College Culture

Are the suburbs, with no big downtowns, a cultural wasteland? Not at all, considering the way the community colleges are working to fill the artistic need. Entertainment Editor Sue Shaughnessy took an in-depth look at the local scene in a story that all the other papers missed. Page 1B

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"Still receiving calls on Monday..."

... we received at least 15 calls and sold everything the same day the ad appeared," said Mrs. E. J. Wyatt. Use Observer Want-Ads to Buy, Sell or Trade.

REDWOOD picnic table and bench, new, \$125.00. Pool table, \$150.00. Pouch chair, \$10.00. Phone to call, GA 7-1522.

ORIE Want-Ad

Classified WANT ADS 422-0900

# New But Unloved Colfax St. Walkway Disturbs Parents



CARS headed east on Colfax Ave. won't splash Keith Wilt (left) or George Fredrick who are walking to Powers Junior High. (Evert photo)



DAVE LONGTINE, and his brother Dan, right, said they would rather walk on muddy Colfax Ave. than on the gravel sidewalk. (Evert photo)



POWERS JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS walk on Colfax Ave. on the way to school rather than on a gravel sidewalk built with Farmington School District funds. (Evert photo)

BY WYLIE GERDES

Nobody likes it. School board members don't like it. Parents whose children walk on it don't like it. School officials speak a little wistfully about it, seemingly wishing they'd never heard of it.

"It" is a sidewalk on the north side of Colfax Ave. from Farmington Rd. west to Gill Rd.

PARENTS OF children who walk to Powers Junior High School on Colfax think the part-gravel and part-cement sidewalk is inadequate and want their children bused until a sidewalk they consider adequate is in place.

The unloved sidewalk seems to have been rejected even by the students although it resembles a nature trail in park.

The kids, parents say, walk in the street rather than on the shrub and bush bordered sidewalk.

Parents have been clamoring for improvement of the half-mile long sidewalk since school opened. The sidewalk itself is the school district's answer to parents' complaints of no sidewalk at all on Colfax.

Most of the parents' wrath has been vented at the Farmington Board of Education who with Farmington Township built the existing sidewalk this summer. After parents' complaints last year, the children were bused to Powers until a sidewalk could be built.

Sympathy is about all the parents have gotten from the school board so far. While the school board admits the safety of children walking to and from school is its concern, members are not certain whether the district had any business participating in the construction of the present walk.

School district officials also question the validity of using public funds in what amounts to improvement of private property. They obviously dislike the cost of available alternatives, however.

THERE IS also the question of why this particular walk is

causing so much commotion. Another part-gravel and part-cement walk on the east side of Middle Belt leading to East Junior High has not received nearly as much criticism as the Colfax walk.

The Colfax sidewalk has two stretches of three-to-four wide-cement, both in front of churches. The remainder of the half-mile is gravel of about the same width. The churches appear to be the only buildings which front on Colfax and are in use.

A frequent complaint of mothers is the sidewalk is too narrow. One mother commented the kids would be strung out from one end of the walk to the other if they walked on the sidewalk because they'd have to walk "Indian file."

AN ADEQUATE sidewalk, according to Mrs. Frederick G. Beattie of 21567 Birchwood, is one on which "two adults could walk abreast."

She said she would like to have her daughter who walks to Powers now, and two more children who will be attending the school, be able to get the exercise of the trip. However, they need a "walkable" surface.

Mrs. Henry Sidor of 21415 Birchwood agreed with Mrs. Beattie, saying she'd call for kids walking. "But who's going to shovel it?" she asked.

Mrs. Neville Dusenberry of 21453 Chemut Lane commented: "I dare an adult to walk on it." She added the gravel used is large and loosely packed. The kids are "walking in a cloud of dust" and "one good rain and you're up to your knees in mud."

Mr. Dusenberry noted 2,429 of the 2,904 feet of sidewalk from Farmington to Gill Rd. is gravelled. "I don't think it's safe or healthy," he said.

The kids walking in the street take a "defiant attitude" towards cars traveling the road, Dusenberry commented, seemingly daring the cars to make them move from the street.

Continued on Page 2A

## Pessimistic Joe

# Falls Tells Of Disasters

BY WYLIE GERDES

Although he isn't quite as pretty as his neighbor Miss America 1970, Detroit Free Press Sports Editor Joe Falls sparked enough with sports anecdotes and opinions to make Farmington's Board of Commerce meeting seem like one of his better newspaper columns.

Falls and Pamela Eldred, the All American girl, Miss America 1970, live in a subdivision just across 14 Mile Rd. in West Bloomfield Township, and his son attends North Farmington High School.

ALTHOUGH FALLS may have lost his position as the subdivision's most publicized resident, he displayed his reserve of sports information by answering questions about two disasters, Broadway Joe and Mayo.

The Tigers were never in the race to defend their world title this year, Falls said in answer to a question on the future of Tiger Manager Mayo Smith.

"I've never seen another pitcher throw all of his pitches over the plate like McLain does," he added. McLain can

make a three-hitter look easier than anybody throwing now, and you have to have super ability to do that, Falls continued.

Falls added his prediction of greatness for the Buffalo Bills O. J. Simpson.

"Simpson has that instinct to move right and bring you right out of your seat," Falls commented.

IN PASSING, Joe Namath came in for a blast from Falls, who reported the New York Jets-Bills game.

"I admire Joe Namath—as a snake," the Free Press sports editor said.

Other subjects Falls covered and his comments:

- A new stadium. Falls said he'd like to keep the stadium downtown for social reasons but it seems headed for Southfield. There's not enough parking down there and the stadium will probably follow the population and affluence of the suburbs.
- Vince Lombardi. He won't and it's easy, nor will anyone else to build a dynasty with 25 teams playing. Lombardi only had to beat 11 teams to get to the top at Green Bay. "The eventual goal," Falls said, "is to make every team .500 and have a 40 team playoff."
- Lem Barney. Barney might be the best football player in the National Football League, Falls said. He changes the entire offense of a team because he prevents passes to the offensive right side, the

side to which most teams like to throw.

"That's why Dick LeBeau has such a heck of a time" Falls said, "because quarterbacks are afraid to throw at Barney."

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## Accident Kills DPW Employee

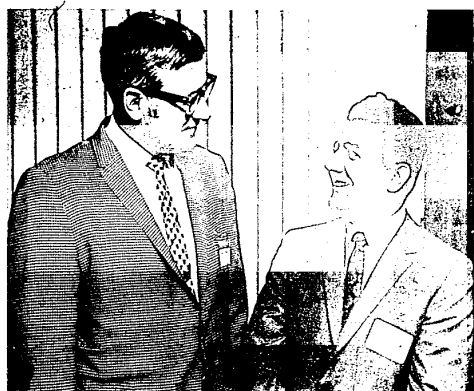
An employee of the City of Farmington's Department of Public Works was killed Thursday in an accident while installing traffic signs.

Donald J. Ellis, 35, of 117 Mawlin in Walled Lake, was killed Thursday when he fell under a rolling truck.

Ellis was installing traffic signs on the east side of the steep Challenge Hill on Farmington Rd. just south of 10 Mile.

A DPW dump truck was rolling backwards down the hill when Ellis fell under its wheels while attempting to get into the cab to stop the truck. He was working alone at the time of the accident.

Ellis, who had been employed by the city for seven months, left a widow and five children.



JOE FALLS, Detroit Free Press sports editor, talks with Farmington Board of Commerce President Tom Zoedes before Falls' talk to the group. (Evert photo)