

Claims Only 2 Subs Assessed

Township Resident Appeals Assessment Practices

William Phillips of 28905 Lorley in Westbrook Manor... Phillips then appealed to the State Tax Commission...

Phillips then appealed to the State Tax Commission. The commission, Phillips said, "ignored the issue entirely" and did not pay heed to an attorney general's ruling...

Committee, saying the Tax Commission ignored the uniformity rule when it issued its findings on his appeal. PHILLIPS WAS AMONG A GROUP OF 16 TAXPAYERS...

about higher taxes," he said, "but because the township is not assessing property uniformly. 'I don't think Rohmer has the right to reassess only one or two subdivisions but not other subs which are of like value and have experienced rising prices. 'Why should residents of Westbrook Manor pay more taxes in 1967 than other like subdivisions? We shouldn't have just because Mr. Rohmer didn't have enough help."

Phillips argued that property in Canterbury Commons, using one example, is not assessed the same as in Westbrook Manor. Homes which will sell for \$30,000 in West-

brook, Kendallwood or Canterbury Commons should all be assessed the same, he said. Even within a subdivision, Phillips said, homes identical in construction and value are assessed differently.

ASSESSMENTS REMAINED unchanged for four years, recalls Phillips, until Rohmer became assessor. In 1967, he continued, the two subs were reassessed from the records without a physical inspection of the property. In 1968, Phillips continued, the assessments on all parcels were raised - including Westbrook Manor and Kendallwood. Phillips says he was the only one to file a protest with the Tax Commission in 1967. The first year property in Michigan was supposed to be assessed at 50% of cash value. "Since then, I have challenged the State Tax Commission four times to make a ruling on my appeal based on the uniform assessment rule of the State Constitution, and they have refused."

PHILLIPS IS ASKING the Senate Committee to instruct the State Tax Commission to give a ruling on an appeal Phillips filed in 1967.

Phillips claims the State Tax Commission has ignored his allegation that Farmington Township is not abiding by the uniform assessment clause of the State Constitution.

He has also contacted Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) and Sen. George Kuhn (R-Birmingham) for assistance.

PHILLIPS TOLD THE Enterprise & Observer he has lived in Farmington Township for 13 years and had no complaints about his assessments until Robert Rohmer became township assessor in 1967.

In 1967, he claims, Rohmer reassessed property in only two subdivisions - Westbrook Manor and Kendallwood.

Phillips that year appeared before the township's Board of Review, appealing his higher assessment on the grounds Rohmer violated the uniform assessment clause of the State Constitution.

The constitution not only requires property to be assessed at 50% of cash value, Phillips argued, but also that property be assessed uniformly throughout the taxing area.

In other words, says Phillips, subdivisions with homes of like value which have experienced a rise in cash value should be reassessed during the same year.

IT IS NOT UNIFORM or equitable for two subdivisions to be reassessed while other subs of like value are not, he told the Review Board.

"The Review Board in 1967 told me I was right, but if they upheld my challenge, they would have to change all the assessments that year," Phillips said.

Farmington Socially Speaking By KATHY ZISKA GR 4-7261

It's Karol Kustron who shares the limelight this week! She is the 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kustron of Orchard Lake Road. She is in the limelight for being first place winner for an original poster contest sponsored by the St. Fabian Credit Union.

Karol took the theme of "It pays to be a Credit Union Family" and came up with a yellow umbrella with predominantly orange colored psychedelic fabric flowers, adding the words "Save for a rainy day by joining the Credit Union Family". By the way, the poster contest was open to the sixth graders at St. Fabian school only.

A LOVELY WAY to celebrate a 25th wedding anniversary is to hop on a plane headed for Hawaii. That's just what Mr. and Mrs. Harry Howes of Whitlock did for their anniversary.

It's even nicer if you have friends. Like Mr. and Mrs. Wes Smith of Cass Avenue to go along and help celebrate, and this is what the Smiths did. The two couples enjoyed a luxurious spree visiting the four main islands of Hawaii.

Mrs. Howes had apprehensions of boarding a plane, this being her first attempt. No more apprehensions as far as Mrs. Howes is concerned—it's the only way to fly. The Howes have four grown children, Norman Pippes, Herbert Howes, Miss Elta Howes and Mrs. Ruth Borner. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes on your silver anniversary and may there be many more happy years together.

AN OLD-FASHIONED supper and barn dance was the doing in the Orchard Methodist Church sponsored by the active Couples Group.

The square dancing progressed under the capable caller Sy Simms. The committee responsible for the "good time was had by all" were: Jim and Doris Sheffler, Gwen and George Ziegler, Dorothy and Darwin Schelling, Bev and Glen Ulrich, Norma and Ken Pender and Bev and Dick Konbek.

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