

## Committee Finds Cityhood Is Best Means For Good Roads

A preliminary study by the Farmington Township Road Committee indicates the best solution to finding funds for road improvements is obtaining city status for the township.

Cityhood, if obtained, would raise the township's present \$135,000 road budget to nearly \$500,000 and "allow money for road improvements not even foreseeable under the present system," the report notes.

THE STUDY released Monday to the press, covers some of the conclusions the committee has reached after six months work.

Another finding was: "The inequality of the 'matching fund' project is apparent. Areas which have money can get more money for road improvements while those areas which cannot afford to match funds in the first place can expect no help until the state laws are changed."

An introduction to the study explains: "The findings contained in this report are not the end of their (the committee's) work, nor do they contain solutions to begin immediate improvements of roads."

They do, however, represent many hours of work by many people in an effort to

find an answer to a seemingly impossible problem.

Committee Chairman Fred Boyce observes his members individually studied as much material as they could state on solutions to road problems, have surveyed road conditions personally, and have met with the township supervisor and county road engineer.

THE FIRST conclusion listed in the report is: "The building of a good road in front of an individual home is the responsibility of the homeowner."

There are no provisions

nor laws for townships, county or state to build residential roads; not the report. State Highway Fund collections are returned to the county which budgets to each township on a ratio basis according to miles of roads and population.

"This money is used mainly for the maintenance of existing roads, such as scraping and snow removal. Seldom is there money left for materials such as gravel or actual road improvement, since the entire 1969 budget for Farmington Township roads was \$135,000."

ANOTHER OBSERVATION was: "For the most part, peo-

ple buy a home or vacant lot in a subdivision where the price the original land developer charged reflected the kind of road he provided, and that road at best was the minimum required by the county at the time to be accepted as a county road."

County specifications for local roads have been upgraded to a present level which is still not the ultimate, but gives an acceptable road surface within a reasonable cost ratio to ability to pay."

The study also states: "Most of the very poorest roads in the township are in the area south of 10 Mile Rd."

"Here land was developed into subdivisions many years ago when there were few, if any, township or county specifications for roads."

"The original purchasers of these lots probably accepted the idea of gravel roads, but not being road experts did not realize that the 50 or 60 feet of roadway was recently a plowed field over which the subdivision ran a road grader, crowned it with top soil, furrowed along each side, sparingly spread a few inches of gravel, gave it a name, and called it a street."

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today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 57 84 pages, 7 sections

what's inside

Americanism & SMC

Today's second front page contains lots of local news of varying degree. There is a report on the winners of the Miss Americanism and Miss Liberty Bell contest, more complaints about the anti-Vietnam group at North Farmington High, the latest on ordering gas lamps from the City of Farmington, and the township board's reaction to the two resignations from its road committee.

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Snow White Sells Booze

Would you believe Snow White has gotten a license to sell liquor in Farmington Township? That just might be a misspelling there, but you'll never know unless you turn inside.

Page 10B

Kin Of Yours?

If your child is enrolled in kindergarten, his picture is probably in today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer. A pictorial report on that transitional age just may include a kin of yours.

Page 5A

Spring's Here

You know spring is here when the Farmington Artists announce their spring sale and show. We have the details on

Page 11A

Eddie's 47th

Tuesday was Roving Editor W. W. Edgar's 47th consecutive opening day covering the Detroit Tigers, and his coverage and views are as sharp and authoritative as ever. He's exclusively in your home town paper.

Page 1B

The Region

We're part of a gigantic metropolis, but only the Observer Newspapers attempts to give a suburban-eye view of such problems as community college finance and water and air pollution. You'll find it in the Regional Affairs Page

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Classified Want Ads..... Sec. D  
Cooking, by Ely..... 5C  
Deaths and Funerals..... 9A  
Home and Garden..... 9A  
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World of Women..... 1-3C

JUST CALL ME... to reach cash buyers

Observer Want Ads  
422-0900



ON THEIR WAY—Gill School Principal Frank Kasun, Mrs. Jessie Corliss and Longacre School Principal Walter Jablonski load 1,000 pounds of books destined for a school in South Africa. The books had been sitting for eight months on Mrs. Corliss' front porch. (Evert photo)

**Destination—Africa**

**Texts En Route Overseas**

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

It took eight months, yards and yards of red tape, a whirlwind 1,200 mile trip...pressure on the federal government, money from some dedicated Farmington citizens...and hours and hours of Mrs. Jessie Corliss' time...but it's done.

As of this moment, 1,000 pounds of books are on the high seas bound for Peace Corps worker, Gayle Smith, in Sierra Leone, South Africa. Up to now the books have been sitting on Mrs. Corliss' front porch.

As Longacre PTA president, Mrs. Corliss made it her task to collect over 1,500 pounds of books.

That's a lot of books and Mrs. Corliss had no place to put them but her front porch.

The books sat there till last Friday.

The hang-up was the prohibitive cost it took to mail the books to Africa. They had to be mailed in 11-pound packages at \$1.39 per pack. No PTA has that kind of money.

OVER THE PAST eight months, Mrs. Corliss checked with CARE, the Peace Corps, RE-Cross, the airlines, industry, the government, MEDIC (the military services), private individuals, everybody, to see if somebody, anybody could get the books to Africa. Nobody could.

Finally, a dear friend of Mrs. Corliss (a man with influence, it should be noted) worked it out, although he had been working on the problem for the entire eight months.

After weeks of checking with such agencies as the ICC, the friend discovered that regulations prohibit public carriers from donating shipping space.

But the friend chartered the Fargyle Lines in...consenting to ship the books on the SS African Planet.

THE NEXT PROBLEM was to transport the books to Baltimore, the African Planet's port.

But before that the books had to be packaged.

This is where Farmington citizens got into the act.

Farmington resident A.B. Killeen got his company, Packaging Corporation of America, a Plymouth concern, to donate 18 boxes to hold the books.

Mrs. Corliss' husband used his Boy Scout training and tied the books into the boxes.

Robert Chesley of Chesley Industries contributed \$50 for gas so that Frank Kasun of Gill School and Jablonski could drive to Baltimore with the books in time for the African Planet's Sunday sailing date.

This was augmented by a \$25 contribution from Turbine Tool & Gauge Co. of Redford Township. The township was interested because the books originally came from Mason School in South Redford School District.

THE BOOKS ARE addressed to the American embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, so that duty will not have to be paid.

FreeTown is a short distance from Sierra Leone so Miss Smith will not have difficulty in getting them to her school, once they arrive.

And once younging African pupils understand enough English, Miss Smith can tell them the saga of their books, the eight-month saga of the books.

**Selman Killed In Vietnam**

A 20-year-old Farmington man, killed in South Vietnam, is being shipped back to Farmington for burial.

Army PFC Charles G. Selman of 29214 Dresden Ave., Farmington Township, was killed April 9 while on a combat mission.

Selman had been in Vietnam for less than 60 days when he was killed. He leaves a wife, Deborah, and a son, Richard Todd, four months old.

Other survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip S. Selman who live at 29214 Dresden along with Deborah and Richard.

Selman, who attended Clarenceville High School, entered the Army in August 1969 and arrived in Vietnam Feb. 14, 1970. He was assigned to Co. E, 2d Bn., 501st Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division.

Details concerning his death are not known at this time. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington. Funeral arrangements will be completed once the date the body will arrive is known.

## 2nd Member Quits Road Committee

Another member has resigned from the Farmington Township Road Committee as a protest to the township's decision to pave Drake Rd. north of Nine Mile.

Mrs. Terese Pinner became the second by submitting her letter of resignation to Township Supervisor Curtis Hall. Mrs. Pinner joins Mrs. Catherine Vignoe in resigning in protest over the Drake paving decision.

BOTH MRS. PINNER and Mrs. Vignoe are members of the Farmington Township Road and Civic Association which had been active long before the Road Committee began meeting six months ago.

It is quite apparent that the conscientious members of this committee will not be given opportunity to make recommendations on expensive road expenditures, like the Drake Road Project," Mrs. Pinner wrote Hall.

"Nor will this committee have any power to bring about any 'policy-change' by recommending that some part of other revenues to Farmington be used to correct this road situation.

"A proper, ditching and gravel program is all the people want and it would solve the problem."

MRS. PINNER EXPLAINS she joined the road committee with four years of previous study of road problems, finances and policy.

"Now, after an additional six months of time and sincere effort failing to produce any results, it just doesn't seem right to go through the same old routine that hasn't helped anyone in the past."

She said she accepted the appointment to the road committee because of a sincere desire to be helpful in an area that needs help but is now resigning because "there does not seem to be the remotest possibility of success in this combined effort."

Commenting on the six monthly meetings of the committee to date, Mrs. Pinner says: "Usually a committee is provided with authority and tools with which to work."

"So far this committee has been provided with only a handful of old printed material by County Highway Engineer Paul Van Roekel.

"There is nothing in all these pages that shows how to correct a deplorable road situation that came about because of neglect by local government for many years."

MRS. PINNER ALSO mentions a report given the committee entitled "Projected Road Improvement Projects," which included some \$5,500 in improvements which were not itemized to show what the

## Request Impartial Review

Farmington Democratic Club has challenged Farmington Township officials to submit to an impartial group the question of whether or not there was favoritism shown in the decision to pave Drake and 9 Mile Rds.

The club suggests use of a community organization such as the Jaycees or League of Women Voters to investigate the claim of favoritism.

A STATEMENT by the Democrat's executive board points out that Township Supervisor Curtis Hall's "usual cry of politics every time citizens complain of the shortcomings of township policies" should be examined by an impartial group to determine which side is right.

"The opinion of the Farmington Democratic Club that favoritism was shown in the decision to pave Drake Rd. north of 9 Mile at no cost to the subdivision owner has now been backed up by Hall's own statements," declared the club's statement.

"When Hall said if we could have found someone to put up 25 or 30%, we might have pushed another mile road ahead," he admitted that special consideration in the form of a free paved road was given to the large landowners on both sides of Drake Rd.

"WHY SHOULD residents in other areas of the township have to pay 25-30% when the Drake landowners aren't paying a single cent? Why should there be a double-standard as admitted by Mr. Hall? Hall?