

Eagle School Fire May Signal Start Of Summer Recess



KINDERGARTEN ROOM. The kindergarten room of Eagle Elementary School at 29410 14 Mile Rd. was destroyed by fire Sunday night. The roof over the kindergarten area collapsed, leaving this open air view of the damaged room. Total damage to the school was estimated at \$200,000. (Evert photo)

A fine early Monday morning may have ended school three weeks early for more than 400 pupils at Eagle Elementary School at 29410 W. 14 Mile. The fire, which one official said was "done on purpose by kids," destroyed the kindergarten area of the low rambling brick building and caused smoke and heat damage to the remainder.

Damage was estimated at \$200,000. The Farmington Board of Education met in executive session Monday night to discuss the alternatives for Eagle's pupils.

A decision on whether to transfer the students to another school or release them for the rest of the year probably will be made this week.

BORIS NICOLOFF, fire chief of West Bloomfield Township, said their department received the call at 1:12 a.m. Monday.

Eight fire vehicles from West Bloomfield, plus others from neighboring departments appeared at the school. The school is in West Bloomfield Township but in the Farmington School District.

The West Bloomfield fire chief said destruction was limited to the kindergarten area. The large kindergarten room, a square about 45 feet on each side, was destroyed. The roof above the room collapsed and the fire spread across the roof to other nearby rooms.

The remainder of the building had smoke and heat damage. Nicoloff said the fire burned only in the kindergarten area.

NICOLOFF SAID the fire was substantially out a half hour after fire fighters reached the scene. Firemen stayed at the sight for four more hours, however, to quench small pockets of smoldering debris.

Nicoloff said the fire was set, apparently by vandals. The principal's office was smeared with glue and evidence of a break-in was found at the west end of the building.

In the kindergarten room, Nicoloff said, a bottled gas torch was found with its valve open. He said the torch was part of the school's equipment.

MONDAY NIGHT, school board president Richard Peters said the building was damaged seriously enough to consider not using it the remainder of the semester.

Efforts are being made to figure out some other way to house students in the meantime but it

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Ban Political Clubs?

Sentiment in the community to prevent the Student Mobilization Committee from organizing at North Farmington High School once again was expressed to the Farmington Board of Education. William Flattery appeared asking the board to ban all political clubs from the system's high schools.

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Lots At Center

Another series of classes is again being offered by the Farmington Community Center and full information can be found in today's AT THE CENTER column. Parents of elementary children will also want to read the list of pupils honored at Farmington's first Young Authors Conference.

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PRD Denied

Farmington Township planners have denied the first request in the township for a Planned Residential Development. The planning commission will also have to select a new chairman because of the resignation of Chuck Lorton.

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Seekers

What nation-wide group makes a study of our heritage its prime aim? The name and some local faces can be found in the Women's Section.

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Upcoming

THE WEEKEND edition of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer will be devoted to news coverage and feature stories about the graduating class of 1970. Reports of ceremonies at all area high schools plus special features on graduates will be offered.

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Memorial Day Parade Should Draw Thousands

About 15,000 to 25,000 persons are expected to line Grand River to view Saturday's Memorial Day Parade in Farmington.

It will be a big parade. MORE THAN a dozen bands will be playing with a half dozen floats interspersed between entries.

In addition, all four military branches will be represented. The Army and Navy will have marching units and the Marine Corps and Air Force will be represented by color guards.

And there will be lots of queens and girls, and area governmental leaders, including: Farmington Mayor Wilber Brotherton, Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall and State Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington).

BUT THIS YEAR'S main attraction will be the appearance in the parade of the top enlisted man from each of the

four branches of military service. Selected, were: Staff Sgt. Richard Hall, Army; Yeoman 1/c James Streiter, Navy; Gunnery Sgt. James Martin, Marine Corps; and Sgt. Elbert Mills, Air Force.

Queens riding in the parade include: Kathy Courtney, the Farmington VFW Miss Americanism; Debbie McGovern of Farmington, American Legion's Michigan queen; and Cathy Stock, Farmington Founders Festival queen.

Other participants in the memorial service will be the Rev. Carl H. Schultz, pastor Salem United Church of Christ; Robert V. Randolph, chaplain; Blue Star Mothers National President Mrs. Beatrice Farmington; Blue Star

Mothers Michigan President Mrs. Betty Edelmayer; and Blue Star Mothers Branchlet President Mrs. Blanche Gilson.

Also: WWI Veterans Commander Clarence Manipel; American Legion Commander Gerald J. Farrell; VFW Commander Robert Weatherford; Legion Auxiliary President Mrs. Ruth Holtz; and VFW Auxiliary President Mrs. Shirley Smith.

FOLLOWING the parade, a Memorial Day Banquet will be held in the American Legion Hall.

Master of ceremonies will be Noel Kurth, outgoing president of the Farmington Area Jaycees. Rev. Schultz will give the invocation and Gen. Dean the main address.

Awards will be given the four top enlisted men and trophies to the top band and float. The Farmington Chamber of Commerce will be judging the bands.

Also present at the banquet will be James Milliron, commander of the Department of Michigan VFW. An open house will be held in the VFW hall on Orchard Lake after the banquet.

Vignoe Directs Airplane Meet

A Farmington resident will direct part of the Michigan Exchange Club's Model Airplane Meet June 14 at the Ford Test Track in Utica.

Willard Vignoe of Farmington will be in charge of the radio controlled model airplane contest. He is a member of the Michigan Radio Control Society.

The meet, free to spectators, will feature competition in free flight, radio controlled and control line models. Two youth events also are scheduled.

Entries for the meet close June 8.



THE BIG PARADE — The Farmington Area has already established itself as putting on one of the biggest and finest Memorial Day parades in the state. This year's parade Saturday promises to be even bigger with more marching units, floats, military equipment and honored guests. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. May 30 at Grand River and Mooney and proceed westward to the Memorial Monument. Here is one of the floats from last year's parade.