

## today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 98 52 pages, 5 sections

## bulletin

### Settlement At Schoolcraft

Schoolcraft College officials hope to announce registration for the fall semester by the end of the week, following a contract agreement between bargaining teams from the administration and Faculty Forum.

The college board was to give the proposed one-year contract a preliminary look Tuesday evening in a "study" session, then set a formal meeting within 48 hours to ratify it, according to President Eric Bradner.

The Faculty Forum, bargaining agent for the instructors, was expected to meet Wednesday morning for a ratification vote. If the proposed contract is approved, it will end a two-week strike that has endangered some students' chances of transferring to four-year colleges early in 1971.

Dr. Bradner will issue broadcast announcements, once the contract is ratified, telling students when to register. A college spokesman said the announcement would hopefully come after Wednesday's faculty ratification vote.

### Schools Open Without Pact

Farmington teachers voted Tuesday morning not to strike while the Farmington Education Association and the school district continue negotiations.

Teachers decided to begin the school year without a new contract while a state-appointed fact-finder investigates economic issues under negotiations. Robert Neuhauser, FEA president, said teachers will vote to accept or reject the fact finder's report after it is completed. He was hopeful the report will be ready within two weeks.

Issues to be examined by the fact finder include salary and extra-duty schedules and fringe benefits.

Neuhauser said the vote to work without a new contract was the unanimous recommendation of the FEA's negotiating team and steering committee. Teachers voted "overwhelmingly" to begin school today, he said.

### C'ville Ratifies

Clarenceville teachers started classes today after approving a new one-year contract with only eight votes to spare.

The teachers voted 89-81 Tuesday in favor of ratification, with 81 "yes" votes required. The contract was negotiated a week ago by the administration and the Clarenceville Education Association, bargaining agent for the teachers.

### WITH THIS RING....

The Observer Newspapers "Winter Brides" will tell the story of three rings and three young couples as they plan their wedding days.



LOOK FOR "WINTER BRIDES" SEPTEMBER 26.

# City Gains 1,000 Persons; Census Bureau Admits Error

By WYLIE GERDES  
The Census Bureau has admitted it made an error of more than 1,000 in the population count of the City of Farmington.

City Manager John Dinan received a letter from Robert G. McWilliam, acting regional director of the Census Bureau, saying the City's efforts to find the more than 1,000 persons it said were missed in the preliminary census figures were successful.

CENSUS FIGURES are important to city governments

because state and federal aid is based on population.

The Census Bureau's original estimated population total for the city was 9,851. The city, in cooperation with Census Bureau and other organizations, found 273 housing units which were not included in the first count.

Dinan said an average of three persons per household would raise the city's total to almost 11,000, the population previously estimated by city officials.

The Census Bureau's total is now only eight housing units

less than city estimates, the city manager added.

"I'm satisfied we got a fair count," Dinan commented.

He noted the city receives about \$25 per person in aid, so the increase means about \$27,000 per year in increased aid.

"That's a little better than half a mill in operating levy," the city manager said.

DINAN ADDED that the population total is used for 10 years so the city will gain more than \$300,000 over the next decade.

"You've got to live with it for the next 10 years. That's what makes it so bad," the city manager said.

Although several cities in the metropolitan area have contested their population results, Farmington is apparently the only one to receive a major change.

City workers canvassed the entire city to find housing units which were not counted by the Census Bureau's mail-returned forms. If personal contact failed, Dept. of Public Services employees tried telephone calls. If the household still couldn't

be reached, the city sent registered letters, their receipt requested. Dinan said only a few households in the city have not been contacted by one of the methods.

THE HOUSEHOLD COUNT, when sent to the Census Bureau, revealed that the Kenastown Manor apartment project south of Nine Mile east of Farmington Rd., had been assigned to Farmington Township.

McWilliam said the greatest percentage of missing households were found in the apartment project but that other areas were also mis-assigned.

Officials stressed that the residents were counted but incorrectly assigned. Other areas of census data from the missing units beside population, such as income, etc., were assigned to the city.

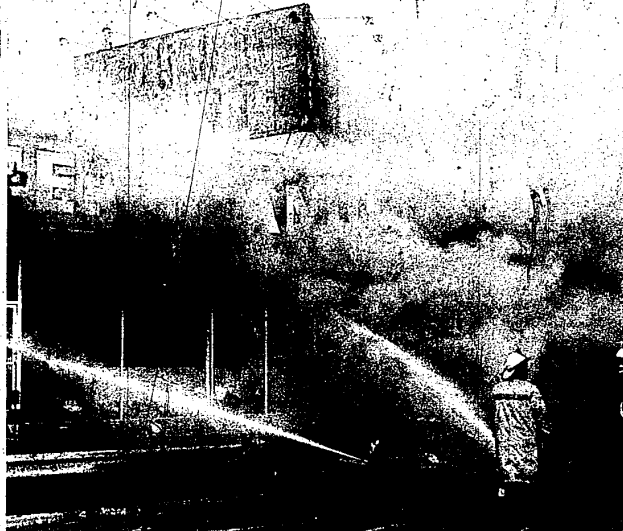
McWilliam's letter to city officials says: "A check of addresses in the City of Farmington revealed 373 housing units whose residents had not been included in the original population figure released to

you, but had been included elsewhere. The addition of these addresses raises the preliminary count of housing units from 2,881 to 3,254."

McWILLIAMS SAID he has taken steps to insure that the correction will be made in the official count to be released later in the fall. He added the official count will be issued sometime in November.

The Census Bureau official praised the city's efforts in locating the missing units. "Your providing housing unit counts by block face was of considerable help in resolving the problem and was greatly appreciated," McWilliam said in his letter.

Dinan returned the compliment, saying the Census Bureau was extremely helpful. He added that letters of thanks will be sent to Michigan's two U.S. senators, U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Municipal League, who also helped in the project.



**VALIANT TRY**—The fire was too hot and spreading too fast to save the Merchandise Mart, but a valiant try by firefighters contained the blaze and kept it from spreading to adjoining buildings. Ralph Evert was the

first photographer on the scene, arriving 11 minutes after the call reached the Redford Fire Department. (Ralph Evert photo)

## Fire Guts Big Store

What little there was of salvage had been collected, and insurance adjusters are prepared to write up as a total fire loss the structure and contents of the Merchandise Mart in Farmington Township.

The large store, on the north side of Eight Mile and just north of Grand River, was destroyed by a fire which was reported at 12:47 p.m. Friday.

A CITIZEN SPOTTED the fire, and believing the store was in Redford Township, reported the blaze to the Redford Fire Department. Redford was the first department to respond to the three-alarm blaze.

Farmington Township volunteer fire fighters were at the scene with their three units, and the City of Farmington sent its equipment, including the recently acquired snorkel. Southfield and Livonia police were at the scene to assist with traffic.

Although the fire destroyed the department store, buildings very close escaped damage. Cause of the fire is still under investigation, but an early hunch was that children could have set fire to rubbish behind the building.

IT IS KNOWN the fire started at the rear of the building and

spread first from a fenced area outside which stored chlorine for swimming pools.

Despite the block walls and concrete-type ceiling, the fire quickly spread inside the department store and was fueled immediately by paint cans, thinner and varnish stocked at the back of the store.

The paint goods set off a series of small explosions, and the flames spread so rapidly that firefighters had little chance to save the structure or contents.

Fortunately, there were no injuries as customers were herded outside quickly and efficiently by employees. The blaze was under control by 2 p.m. and contained with adjacent buildings saved.

Saturday morning salvage crews entered the department store to collect the small bit of salvageable merchandise toward the front of the store. Among the ruins were a large number of lawn mowers, spreaders and tools.

It was one of the biggest fires in Farmington history, much bigger than the Himmelspach fire two years ago.

Not only was Merchandise Mart a large structure than Himmelspach Dairy, but its contents were much more. Himmelspach was closed for business when destroyed by fire.



**THREE DEPARTMENTS**—There was enough equipment on the scene of the Merchandise Mart fire with three departments fighting the blaze. The tall ladder above was supplied by Redford Township, the City of Farmington sent its snorkel and Farmington Township responded with three fire trucks. (Ralph Evert photo)

## Schools Open Today With 20,000 Pupils

School doors opened throughout the Farmington area this morning (Sept. 9), but the most dramatic door which opened was at Harrison High School on 12 Mile between Middle Belt and Orchard Lake Rd.

The third high school in the Farmington School District opened its doors at 7:35 a.m. to a brand new student body of about 1,100 students in grades 9, 10 and 11.

The event ended weeks of drama as school administrators battled with contractors so construction could be completed by opening date.

A plumber's strike was the last delay, and the district had scheduled a split schedule with Harrison students attending half-days at North Farmington High School.

But on Aug. 31, the final decision was reached that Harrison would be ready for occupancy today (Wednesday) and the word was rushed out to students and parents.

THE DRAMA surrounding Harrison's opening overshadowed Wood Creek Elementary which also opened its doors for the first time today.

The Wood Creek staff has been equally busy the past couple of weeks making preparations for its initial enrollment. Another opening of importance is Eagle Elementary at 14 Mile and Middle Belt.

Eagle School was destroyed by fire just before the school year ended last June and special education students attending there were shifted to another school.

During this summer, Eagle has been renovated and a media center added. When Eagle opened this morning, the special education students returned to their previous school home.

THERE WERE A number of school openings today other than the notable ones at Harrison, Wood Creek and Eagle.

Altogether, more than 20,000 Farmington area students returned to school today to begin another term. About 16,800 students attend Farmington public schools and 2,800 attend parochial schools in the Farmington area.

Farmington School's enrollment of 16,800 included 8,700 elementary pupils, 3,000 junior high students, and 4,100 high school students.

High school enrollments are split evenly between North Farmington and Farmington Senior with about 1,500 at each school. Harrison opened with about 1,100.

The new principal at Harrison High, named after retired Supt. Gerald Harrison, is Louis Shulman who comes to Farmington after serving as principal at Cooley High in Detroit.

Assisting Shulman are Jack Butler, assistant principal, and Jerry Allison, administrative assistant.

New principal for Wood Creek Elementary is Larry Freedman. The other administrative change

Continued on Page 3A