

today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 16 40 pages, 4 sections

what's inside

Teacher Strike

The possibility of a teacher's walkout in the Farmington School District still remains, and the strike may occur within two weeks. Leaders of the teachers' union are disturbed that the school board has failed to ratify the contract and may recommend a strike vote on Dec. 1.

Page 2A

Nipped At The Wire

With the Jackson-at-Northville harness racing meet entering the stretch, Doc Minard predicts Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley will not extend the number of racing days at the Downs. For this and other inside horse-racing info, read Minard's popular column on

Page 8B

Opera Stars

Opera stars, two choruses and a Michigan orchestra all combine to get the Christmas season off to a good start. The event takes place next week.

Page 7A

A New Look

A high school assembly will take on a different look next Tuesday. The public is invited and it should be an interesting and worth while hour.

Page 7A

Let There Be Music

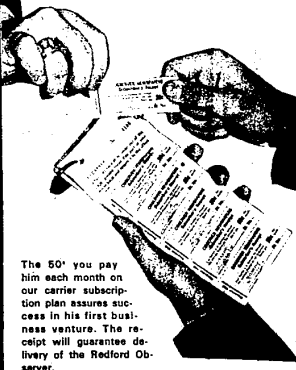
One of the largest electronic organs ever installed in Michigan is being dedicated in a Redford Church. The story is on our church page.

Page 6A

Amusements.....	7A
Churches in Action.....	6A
Classified Want Ads.....	Sec. B
Sports — Prep and Pro.....	8B
Spotlight on Women.....	6A

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Clark Faces Dec. 3 Exam On Second Death Charge

By EMORY DANIELS
Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington Township physician, was arraigned Wednesday morning on a manslaughter charge and ordered to face examination Thursday, Dec. 3.

Clark faces a manslaughter charge in connection with the March 1967 death of Mrs. Hannah Bowerbank, former office manager for Clark. The arraignment was conducted by Judge James McNally in Detroit Recorder's Court and a plea of innocence entered for Clark.

Clark was transferred from Jackson State Prison by a writ from the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. After the arraignment, he was sent to Wayne County Jail where he is expected to remain until Thursday's examination in Recorder's Court.

CLARK IS being represented by attorney James E. Wells. Avery Weiswasser is the Wayne County assistant prosecutor assigned to the case.

The prosecution plans to call six witnesses for the Dec. 3 examination, including expert witnesses who will testify on the toxicology reports filed as part of the autopsy reports on Mrs. Bowerbank.

The manslaughter warrant was issued Nov. 23 by Robert Smith of the Detroit Police Department's homicide division.

Clark, now serving a 3-15 year manslaughter sentence, is eligible for release from

Jackson State Prison this June on good behavior. He is serving that term for the death of Mrs. Grace Neil of Livonia, a former nurse for Clark who succeeded Mrs. Bowerbank as office manager.

MRS. NEIL DIED Nov. 3, 1967, some eight months after Mrs. Bowerbank's death on March 20, 1967. According to police investigators, Mrs. Neil was with Dr. Clark in Mrs. Bowerbank's Detroit home when the latter was discovered dead.

Mrs. Neil died in Clark's Farmington office at 30735 Grand River after being given an injection of sodium pentothal, a fast-acting anesthetic popularly known as the "truth serum."

A jury found Clark guilty of manslaughter on June 28, 1968, ruling the doctor was "grossly negligent" in Mrs. Neil's death. Before being sentenced, Dr. Clark said: "I cannot explain this accident. It was entirely without malice on my part. This death was totally inexplicable. Previous treatment over half a dozen years gave no indication of such a catastrophe."

ON MARCH 22, 1967, Dr. Clark had signed Hannah Bowerbank's death certificate which attributed cause of death as an acute coronary thrombosis.

On the death certificate, Dr. Clark explained the heart attack was related to compli-

cations resulting from an auto accident three years earlier.

The autopsy was performed almost 20 months later by Dr. Richard E. Olson, chief pathologist at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Dr. Olson reported Mrs. Bowerbank had not died of any of the natural causes listed by Dr. Clark.

Dr. Olson had also per-

formed the autopsy on Mrs. Neil's body and testified she had not died of any of the ailments listed by Dr. Clark. Clark also signed Mrs. Neil's death certificate.

Farmington Township police have taken statements from Hannah Bowerbank's mother and a nephew, Gorge Bowerbank of Livonia.

IN JANUARY, 1969, Dr.

Clark's medical license was revoked by the State Board of Registration in Medicine.

The 10-member board unanimously decided Clark had administered sodium pentothal to Mrs. Neil for "illegitimate and nontherapeutic purposes."

Clark considered himself as a pioneer in using sodium pentothal as an inexpensive

form of psychiatric therapy.

In May, 1968, Clark had filed a complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission that he was being harassed by police "because of my religious beliefs."

A YEAR AFTER Hannah Bowerbank's death, Dr. Clark

Continued on Page 3A



BACKYARD PLAYGROUND swings stand erect among old trash barrels and sheds, a constant reminder that children play here. (Evert photo)

Mothers Are Trying To Help Themselves

By LYNNE LUTHER
Apathy and ignorance have helped mask poverty in the Farmington Area.

Those aware of the poverty pocket are apt to exclaim: "There's not much we can do. Those people aren't willing to help themselves. They want something for nothing and aren't willing to pay."

But that explanation overlooks the fact that about 15 per cent of the families living in Section 36 have incomes under \$3,000 a year.

MOTHERS IN-TERVIEWED by the Farmington Enterprise & Observer explain they have tried to help themselves but there's not much to be accomplished with their available limited resources.

"It's not that we don't want to help ourselves, we DO," roars Mrs. Jeanette Trisdal. "Last summer we looked for

(Following is the fourth in a series of articles written by Lynne Luther examining the problems in Farmington Township's poverty pocket. Next Wednesday's article will be a report on Farmington's version of Mother Waddles.)

a field for the kids to have a place for baseball. Finally, they just had to go over to the school playground a couple miles away."

Mothers interviewed complain about lack of cooperation from Farmington Township officials.

"You can't get anyone to answer when you call. They leave you hanging on the phone or they tell you to go do it yourself," says Mrs. Marilyn Gendron.

Township officials, on the other hand, counter that "they do not help themselves" and that "sometimes their language is not the best." They say many times the

great showing that we're all willing to fight for help."

THE OEO ITSELF, established in Farmington about four years ago, is a central meeting place for the mothers. They meet regularly once a month on Mondays and lately "are becoming more dynamic than ever before."

"Older people who live here just accepted everything," says Mrs. Gendron. "But we're a younger group with a lot of spunk left."

All that "spunk" takes the form of projects like picnics at surrounding lakes during the summer, Christmas parties for the kids, recruiting donations for clothing, for kids, and working with the OEO community aid workers, Mrs. Penny Nelson.

"But we need strong action now to raise our whole standard of living, out here," concludes Mrs. Gendron.



RATS are plentiful in the area. Here is one of their nests. (Evert photo)

What Might 1980 City Be?

By EMORY DANIELS
What might the City of Farmington look like in 1980? There might be a six-story office building with underground parking at the present site of Farmington Lumber at Grand River.

And there might be a three-story parking building with retail stores on the first floor in the middle of what is now the municipal parking lot east of city hall.

of Farmington within the next 15 years. The visions are reduced to writing in the master plan for the Central Business District (CBD) now being considered by the planning commission.

THE CBD PLAN was revealed to the public Nov. 23 in a two-hour session conducted by the planning commission.

plain the plan and to familiarize those directly affected by the plan.

The CBD master plan has been written by the downtown redevelopment committee (DRC), a subcommittee of the planning commission.

1969 with Wes Peterson as chairman. In August, 1969, Richard Tupper became chairman after Peterson resigned from the commission.

The city has already adopted a CBD zoning ordinance, effective last April, which upgrades the zoning in the central business area.

(C-2), and general commercial (C-3) zones.

THE DRC WAS formed in

"It is a plan which must be given implementation plans, capitalization, timetables, and the involvement of the various sectors of the community."

Members of the DRC working under Tupper are Don Stoddard, Jim Platt and Dennis Pheaney.

Continued on Page 6A