

The Farmington Enterprise

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TWO SECTIONS

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 1928

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Farmington Well Assessed, State Tax Men Assert

Examiners From Tax Commission Report Assessments Are Well-Balanced, Fair

That Farmington is unusually well-assessed, with valuations in conformance with the best practice throughout the State, is the opinion expressed by State Tax Commission representatives who have been in the City this week going over assessments.

Daniel D. White and B. H. Coult, examiners who came to Farmington Tuesday, are covering the entire County in their review. They will be in Oakland County about six more days, and expect that their work in Farmington Thursday afternoon.

The examiners take about 20 percent of the property in random community, selecting at random various pieces which will represent the different classes of property, such as residence, business, etc. They make their own estimates as to assessments, and then compare them with the local officials' assessments.

"We have found Farmington's assessments to be just about as they should be, and much better than many other communities," said Mr. White. "The valuations are well-balanced and indicate that the assessing has been done by a competent man, and have received only one complaint, that was from a resident who believed the property was assessed rather high in comparison with business property in the town."

We found that the residence was assessed fully as much as the business, but not enough more to justify recommending that the Assessor change it. On the whole, the assessments are even and fair throughout, and we couldn't make any improvement."

Mr. White emphasized that it was not his work to change local assessments in any way, except in extraordinary cases. The purpose of the work on which the State Tax Commission is engaged is to cover every County in the State, and see that each County pays its full share of State Tax. Were it not for this work, some Counties, assessed high, would be paying a larger proportion of the State tax than they should, while others would be paying less.

Oakland County, for instance according to Mr. White, appears to be assessed higher than Wayne although the City of Detroit is fairly well-assessed. Many districts in Wayne County outside the City limits are assessed higher than they should be, however, Mr. White said.

Throws "Smoke-Screen," Officers Capture Him

After a mile-and-a-half chase from Farmington to South Lyon, during which a "smoke-screen" was thrown 18 times, according to police, James C. Ryan, a Milwaukee as arrested and his three thousand dollar carollet confiscated by Deputies Stokes and Marek Saturday afternoon. Under the seat and rear deck the officers found a huge quantity of bottles of liquor, which they estimated was worth \$4,500.

The officers "spotted" Ryan on Grand River in Farmington, and turned around to catch him. He sped away, and kept ahead of the officers, blinded by his "smoke-screen" until a bearing in his car burned out, near South Lyon. He turned the car into the ditch and fled, but stopped when the officers fired shots at him.

Examination of Ryan is set for December 19.

STOVE ON SECOND FLOOR OF HOME CAUSES A FIRE

Farmington's fire department was called at 11 o'clock Wednesday night to the home of Dorr Catherine on East Grand River avenue, when fire started from a stove on the second floor. Mr. Catherine has been ill in bed. The stove was removed and the flames put out without difficulty.

PRINCIPAL AT LANSING

Principal A. R. Crawford of Farmington High School is representing the school at the State conference of principals and athletic directors in Lansing, Thursday and Friday.

Ralph J. Auten is Elected Head of Farmington Masonic Lodge for 1929



RALPH J. AUTEN

Audubon Society Is Formed Here

Organization To Protect Birds Has New Unit in Farmington; State Head Comes

Mrs. Edith Munger of Hart, state president of the Audubon Society, was in Farmington last week and met with a small but enthusiastic group of bird lovers and aided in the formation of a regular chapter of the state organization. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Emily Butterfield; vice-president, Dr. Elmer Switzer; secretary, Mrs. Mildred Adams; treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Wilbur; directors, Dr. H. A. Leeson, Frank N. Steele and Wells D. Butterfield.

A second and larger meeting will be announced for an early date. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Michigan Audubon Society, and in that time great progress has been made along educational lines in the care of birds and knowledge of our native bird life.

The immediate field of activity for everybody who is minded to promote this fine interest is the matter of winter feeding of the birds who stay with us. The suggestions are that pieces of suet, beef bones, fried cakes, ears of corn, etc., be hung in branches or placed in feeding houses or other convenient places to be reached by the birds during the winter.

It is the hope of the new society to interest the boy and girl scouts and all the younger people in building bird houses and installing them in all the gardens and yards. Plans and specifications for the proper construction will be furnished. The observance of "bird week" in the spring is also one of the immediate plans for the organization.

All those interested in promoting the new society are invited to be in expectancy for the next meeting which will be early in the new year.

ENGAGEMENT OF GLADYS BAKER TO KING HARGER ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK

Mr. and Mrs. William Baker of Grand River avenue, Farmington announce the engagement of their daughter Gladys to King Harger, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Harger, also of Farmington. No date has been set for the wedding.

Miss Baker is a graduate of Farmington High School in which Mr. Harger is a student, in the junior class.

95 Candles For Her Big Birthday Cake!

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pettibone kept open house at their home in Farmington Wednesday afternoon honoring Mrs. Kate Pettibone's 95th birthday. Relatives and friends from Detroit, Walling Lake, Novi, and Farmington gathered to offer congratulations and trade stories of "ye olden time."

By the time all had departed, the rooms were filled with flowers. Many expressed wonderment at Mrs. Pettibone's excellent health and alert mind. A lunch was served, Mrs. Ella Irish pouring tea.

With more than fifty in attendance at the annual meeting of Farmington Masonic Lodge, Monday evening, Ralph J. Auten was elected Worshipful Master. To lead the Lodge for the coming year, A. L. Ross was elected Senior Warden, the second highest office in the Lodge.

A public installation of officers will be held next Thursday evening in the lodge room, with Carl Hilmer, Past Master of Plymouth Rock Lodge, No. 47, Plymouth, as the installing officer. A dinner will precede the installation, which is planned as a social event of importance.

James L. Hogle, for 18 years secretary of the Lodge, was unanimously re-elected, as were John H. Thayer, treasurer, and Frank L. Lee, Tyler, who have also held their respective offices for many years.

Mr. Auten, who succeeds Erskine W. Evans as Worshipful Master, received every other officer elected were: Joseph Himmelspach, Junior Warden; Howard Ford, Senior Deacon; J. H. Dawson, Junior Deacon.

Mr. Auten has indicated the following appointments for the coming year: Stewards, Earl Pettibone, Harlan Morris, Frazer Staman, and Osmond Yerkes; Marshal, Amos Otis; Chaplain, Rev. Elmer W. Palmer.

O. E. S. Party Successful

Farmington Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, held a successful card party following the regular meeting Tuesday evening. Eleven tables were in play. A meeting of the entertainment committee has been called for next Tuesday evening in the Chapter room to plan for the annual New Year's dance of the Chapter which will be given on Friday, December 28, in the Farmington Town Hall.

NEW MEMORIAL PARK PLANNED ON EIGHT-MILE ROAD

Farmington Business-Men Interested in Development On George Stuckey Farm

Of much interest to residents of this section is the formation in Detroit last Friday of a company for the purpose of developing what its backers believe will be the most beautiful memorial park in the Middle West, on 8-Mile road, one mile west of Farmington road.

The property is known as the George E. Stuckey farm, and was acquired by the company last spring. A number of Farmington business-men are interested in the company.

The site comprises 177 acres, and is considered unusually well adapted for the purpose for which it is to be used. Located on the 8-Mile road, which is to be a 204-foot State highway as far as Farmington road, and 200 feet wide west to Washtenaw County, it is believed that the Memorial Park project will result in increased activity in this section.

C. Howard Crane will be the architect for the new project. Myron B. Vorce the engineer, and those interested in the company believe that in the new memorial park Farmington will have at its disposal one of the beauty spots of the country.

The organization promoting the park is named the "Glen Eden Development Company," the memorial park to bear the name, "Glen Eden." Some surveying has been done on the property. It is believed that a considerable number of men will be employed, but in maintenance after the park is completed.

CHANNEY CASE DELAYED

Postponement for a week in the case of Oscar L. Channey, real estate broker charged with representing himself as a State official in the Grand River area, was announced Thursday morning by Judge John J. Schulte, Jr., of Farmington.

Pauline Pickett, Farmington Girl, 'Beats Up' Bandit

Yes, It WAS The Farmington Pauline Pickett, Who Felled Detroit Robber

Weakness is supposed to be a womanly failing. When Farmington folk heard Thursday however, about a woman named "Pauline Pickett" who "beat up" a man attempting to rob her of her few taxicab in Detroit, they were quite certain that it was the "Pauline Pickett" formerly living in Farmington. For they know that the Farmington "Pauline Pickett" is neither a weakling nor a coward.

Miss Pickett stopped at Farnsworth and Russell avenues, Detroit for her "fare" about 11:30 Wednesday evening, and took him to Greeley avenue and Modern street, where he tried to pull her from her seat.

Miss Pickett leaped out, fought with him five minutes, knocked him down, and then ran up on a nearby porch, where she called for help. As the bandit jumped into the driver's seat and drove away, the occupant of the house ran out and emptied a shotgun at the car.

The machine was later recovered in East Detroit by police, who found shotgun holes in it. The driver, Stanley Budzinski, was held on a charge of robbery armed.

When Miss Pickett's mother, Mrs. A. J. Pickett of Grand River avenue was asked Thursday whether she was the "Pauline Pickett" who felled the bandit was her daughter, she answered, "Yes, that's my own daughter, and I try to assure her that she is all right." The daughter is now living at 4427 John R. street.

MUCH OF INTEREST IN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH HISTORY

Oldest Church in Farmington Was Originally Known As "The Union Church"

(History of the First Universalist Church of Farmington read at the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Society held November 22, 1928, by Miss Ida Steele.)

This church edifice, standing on Warner street, was known at first as "The Union Church." It comes its beginning in no small degree to the energy and zeal of a well known man at that time, Sergus P. Lyon. His object was to erect an edifice where he and his fellow-workers could hold such services as their hearts and conscience dictated, and to offer the same privilege to other Christians of whatever creed; also to extend to other countries which had been denied to themselves.

Before the erection of a building, services were held from time to time in any place when a minister could be secured. The first of these preachers was Rev. Mr. Woolley, who preached in George Wright's wagon shop, which stood then where the electric car tracks leave Grand River now.

Afterward services were held in a room that Mr. Lyon fitted up; then in a school room. This school and church room was adapted from an old store of George W. Collins.

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Farmington Woman Wins Diamond Dinner-Ring Given by Radio Station

Winning a diamond dinner ring over the radio at a distance of a thousand miles was the happy experience during the past week of Mrs. C. H. Dunham, wife of the owner of the Farmington Oakland-Pontiac Sales.

Last Thursday morning, shortly after midnight, Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were listening to the "Early Bird" program, of Station KFKP at Milford, Kansas. The station had offered a diamond dinner-ring for the best telegram sent describing reception of the Station's program. As Mr. and Mrs. Dunham listened, dozens of telegrams were read by the Station announcer.

Hearing Set For Dec. 24 In Pasadena Park School Case

Probate Judge McGaffey Directs Farmington Board Of Education, District 5, To Appear And Answer. Appeal; District 6 Still Agog

With a hearing on the Pasadena Park petition for change of school district designated for Monday, Dec. 24, in the Probate Court at Pontiac, and residents of District No. 6 still restive about conditions in that section, school affairs continue to occupy the attention of the community. The Board of Education of Farmington District No. 5 was during the past week directed to enter an appearance at 1:30 p. m. in the Probate Court Dec. 24, while the new Board of District No. 6 declined to call a special meeting to discuss consolidation with District No. 5.

Charles L. Wilson To Be First Assistant

Charles L. Wilson, former Farmington attorney, will become first assistant prosecutor of Oakland County on January 1, it has been announced by Norman C. Orr, prosecuting attorney-elect, in naming his staff.

Mr. Wilson, son-in-law of Road Commissioner and a Mrs. Isaac Bond, has been on the prosecutor's staff since leaving Farmington about two years ago. He still resides with Mrs. Wilson and their children, at the Bond residence.

Plan Community Christmas Tree

Evergreen in Town Park To Be Terminal And Lighted In Evenings

Farmington is to take advantage of its unusually favorable location for a community Christmas tree, and within a few days one of the evergreen's in the Town Hall park will be strung with electric lights and ornaments. The tree is one that is growing in the park.

Earl Grovenor, manager of the Farmington office of the Detroit Edison Company, has agreed to furnish all the electric light bulbs and current required, and also to place them on the tree, in case others cannot be secured to do this work. It is planned to have 100 bulbs burning.

The idea was brought up at the Farmington Exchange Club meeting Wednesday noon. With the Edison Company's co-operation, the only work remaining is to secure sockets and wiring, and to color the bulbs. A quest for plain glass bulbs was begun, inasmuch as all the bulbs now sold are frosted on the inside. Fifteen were obtained at Farmington High School, and a number from residents of the Town, the Edison Company replacing them with the new-type bulbs.

The coloring will be done in the basement of the Edison Company office, and it is hoped to have the lights on the tree within a few days. They will remain until after New Year's Day, Mr. Grovenor having offered to furnish current for as long as it is desired.

The community tree will be not only for this year, but for succeeding holiday seasons, as Mr. Grovenor has agreed to take charge of the wiring and bulbs after the holidays and preserve in good condition until wanted next year. The same is done at Northville by the Edison Co.

Auto Crashes Head-On Into Car, Driver Hurt

Although his automobile crashed head-on into a trolley car at Grand River and Base Line roads, Clarenceville, Wednesday night, Jacob Deputy of Detroit escaped serious injuries. His car was wrecked and the trolley damaged. Deputy was driving east and did not see the westbound car, he told police. He was bruised and cut on the chest, ribs, and chin. William Enders, motorman of the car, was not hurt.

Deputy was taken to a hospital in Highland Park. He was alone in his machine. Deputy Lee Doyle investigated the accident.

FARMINGTON TEACHER OF 50 YEARS AGO RETURNS

Mrs. Nell McHugh of Fenton, Mich., was a visitor at the home of her niece, Miss Minnie Toomey, Sunday, December 9.

Mrs. McHugh will be remembered as Miss Nell McDermott who taught school here in 1877 and 1878. Although 80 years old, she looks years younger and has splendid health. She was on her way to Florida, to spend the winter.

Mark B. Owen, a former Farmington boy, resigned as commissioner of public works and engineering of the City of Fordos Wednesday night, to go into private work.