

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 23.

TWO SECTIONS

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1929

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Fifteen School Teachers Coming Back Next Year

Majority Of Farmington Faculty Sign Renewal Contracts For 1929-30

Fifteen teachers in Farmington Public Schools have signed contracts to return next year indicating that there will be few changes in the personnel of the teaching staff. Those returning constitute about 75 per cent of the whole number, and some of the changes will be due to alterations in the school program. As previously announced, Supt. Ralph E. Baker will again head the faculty, and assisting him will be Principal A. R. Crawford. Others who have signed contracts to teach in Farmington another year are:

Ralph E. Baker, Superintendent. A. R. Crawford, Principal. Emma Hyde, Domestic science and girls athletics.

Edward C. Eaton, Chemistry, general science and algebra.

Lois MacKellar, English.

Lynn M. Rohrer, Commercial.

Lulu Loomis, Music and art.

Curtis Hall, eighth grade.

Eldora Rudberg, seventh grade.

Kenneth R. Bisbee, sixth grade.

Lucile Halsted, fifth grade.

Mrs. Fred Greene, third grade.

Josephine M. Roe, second grade.

Joan Wondergem, kindergarten.

Winifred Thomas, Opportunity room.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was scheduled for Thursday evening.

NEIGHBORS MOURN PASSING OF OLD FRIEND, J. WILCOX

Children Grieve At Death Of Maple Street Citizen; Burial At Franklin

One of Farmington's beloved residents passed on during the past week, when death came to W. James Wilcox of Maple street Sunday morning. Mr. Wilcox, who was 76 years old, was ill only since last Friday morning.

Born in Somersetshire, England in 1853, Mr. Wilcox came to the United States in 1862. He was married to Eunice Tolman in 1876. They lived on a farm on the Farmington-Southfield Townline road for 42 years. Ten years ago they sold the farm and moved to Farmington.

One son, J. J., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, and resides at his parents' home.

Children of Maple street expressed grief at the passing of Mr. Wilcox by joining in the sending of a bouquet of white roses to his grave.

Funeral services took place Tuesday afternoon, with burial at Franklin. (Rev. E. W. Palmer officiated at the services.)

BANQUET IS GIVEN FOR CONFIRMANTS OF SALEM CHURCH

Forty-Five Attend Dinner; Members Of Choir Are Guests Of Honor

About 45 members and their friends enjoyed the Y. P. L. banquet given in honor of the eight confirmants of Salem Evangelical Church. The members of the choir were also honor guests.

Miss MacKellar gave an interesting talk on her trip abroad last summer.

Rev. and Mrs. Schoen and daughter Hedwig, sang and played and Miss Dorothy Kurtz rendered two instrumental numbers.

Rev. Schoen took this opportunity to thank especially Mrs. Edgar, organist, and Mrs. Evans, director, for their splendid work in making the cantata a success.

The cantata was repeated at Manchester, Mich., April 7 with a large and appreciative audience present. A supper was served there for 42 Farmington folks.

NAMED TO COMMITTEES

Harry McCracken and Arthur Lamb, Farmington's representatives on the Board of Supervisors, received committee appointments Thursday as follows: Mr. McCracken, market, county grain, legislation and special buildings; Mr. Lamb, special court-house and miscellaneous.

Men Who Will Govern Farmington For Next Two Years



Four of the seven men on Farmington's new City Commission, which meets for the first time Monday evening, will be new members of the governing body. Two members have served only half of the terms to which they were elected, and one was re-elected for four years on April 1. Shown above are the six men who will govern the City, with Mayor Arthur Lamb. Upper row, left to right, Leo F. Gildemester, Carl Goers, Carl G. Hogle; lower row, left to right, Emory O. Hatton, Amos O. Hatton, Fred Staman.

MRS. F. D. FLEMING ELECTED HEAD OF FARMINGTON P. T. A.

Part In National Child Health Day Planned By Association At Meeting

Mrs. F. De Vere Fleming will head the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association for the coming year, having been elected president of the association at the meeting last Thursday.

A. R. Crawford was elected first vice-president.

Farmington will have a part in the national "Child Health Day" program to be carried on throughout the United States on May 1, the subject having been discussed at the P. T. A. meeting.

Farmington's program started on April 25, the day of the April P. T. A. meeting, when Mrs. Zelpha B. Hale, Oakland County Tuberculosis Association Secretary, will speak at the assembly at 3:15 p. m.

On April 30, there will be a high school clinic, with a specialist in attendance. On May 1, "Play Day" will be celebrated on the school lawn. Games, drills, contests, setting of May-poles and choosing a Queen of May will take place.

On May 3 attention will be directed to the pre-school child. There will be a meeting of the mothers whose children will enter kindergarten next September.

Miss Albus Morse, director of nursing service in Royal Oak, will speak.

The slogan for national "Child Health Day" is: "Youth is the strength of America; make American youth strong."

Mrs. E. N. Roos, president of the School Board, read a paper on "Cultivating the Love of Books in Our Children." Mrs. N. Lee, president of the P. T. A. spoke on the Health Day program to be given the first of May. A continuation and further explanation of the same subject was given by Miss Barbour, school nurse.

Mrs. A. G. Leonard was chosen as general chairman of the May program and Mr. Brethour and Miss Hyde as her assistants.

Officers who will serve with Mrs. Fleming and Mr. Crawford are: E. W. Palmer, second vice-president; Mrs. E. W. Lester, secretary; Lucille H. Haste, assistant secretary; Mrs. Charles Trickey, treasurer.

Send in your news items.

Two Children Bitten By Dogs; Help Asked

Once more Farmington officials have issued a request to dog-owners to co-operate in the quarantine caused by spread of rabies. Reports of persons being bitten continue to come in.

Deputy Lee Doyle reports that Stella Stowe, 11 years old, and Wade Dickerson, were bitten by dogs recently. All dog-owners are warned to keep their animals tied or muzzed and urged to help the authorities in stamping out rabies.

MRS. MIDDLEWOOD CHOSEN AS MATRON BY EASTERN STARS

Isaac Bond Re-Elected Patron At Annual Meeting; Installation April 23

Members of Farmington Chapter No. 232, Order of the Eastern Star, Tuesday evening elected as the worthy patron for the coming year Mrs. Ethel Middlewood of West Point Park.

Mrs. Middlewood has held the second highest office in the lodge, that of associate matron, for the past year.

Isaac Bond, worthy patron for a number of years, was re-elected to that office. A new office, that of associate patron was established in accordance with a grand chapter ruling, and Benjamin Storms was elected to that position.

Installation of officers will be held on Tuesday evening, April 23, when a past grand chapter officer will be in attendance to officiate, according to an announcement by Mrs. Ina Storms, retiring worthy matron.

Other officers elected by the Chapter are:

Mrs. Katherine Banfield, associate matron; Mrs. Mary Johnson, confidante; Mrs. Mary West, associate confidante; Mrs. Lillian Zwalhen, treasurer; Mrs. Ada Bond was re-elected secretary by unanimous vote.

Miss Helen Miller, Mrs. James Hogle, and Mrs. Grace Miller were elected alternates to the annual convention of State chapters.

Mrs. Bond read the annual report, which showed a membership of 272. Two new members were elected to the chapter.

The North Farmington Cemetery Auxiliary will hold their next meeting April 16. There will be a supper and election of officers.

LARGE CROWD SEES HOUSE BURNED TO GROUND IN STORM

Tree Struck By Lightning, Falls On House And Ignites It; Throng Blocks Road

A crowd of considerable proportions was attracted last Friday evening to a fire on Grand River avenue east in Farmington, when a vacant house was burned to the ground during the severe electrical storm.

Lightning struck a tree near the house, and the tree fell over, setting the house afire. It burned rapidly, and the Farmington fire department could do little to check the flames.

The burning house made a spectacular scene in the darkness and many residents drove to the spot. Traffic was blocked on Grand River avenue for some time. Deputy Sheriff Lee Doyle worked to keep driving lanes open.

The house was owned by Lloyd Gullen, and was on the north side of Grand River avenue, just east of the ravine.

A Farmington man, Sherman Yerkes, felt the effects of what is believed to be the first "air burglary" in this section. Three planes, of which Mr. Yerkes was one, were broken into and instruments, seat cushions, etc., taken.

Mr. Yerkes' plane was on Berg road between Eight and Nine-Mile roads. The robbery was discovered Sunday.

Passing Of A Farmers' Insurance Company Shows Community Change

Indicative of the rapid change of the character of this section from a farming to an urban community is the disbanding recently of the Michigan Mutual Home Insurance Co., a Farmington company, which had been in existence for 30 years.

The company's business was almost entirely with farmers, and when its charter expired on March 4 last, the stockholders decided to liquidate and place the insurance in other companies.

The organization closed its books with a favorable financial report. In the 30 years of its existence, the company has had but three presidents. The first was the late Governor Fred M. Warner, who served from the time the company

Prices Asked For Frontage May Halt Gd. River Widening

Change In Plans And Building Of Cut-Off South Of Farmington May Result From Difficulties; Right-Of-Way Men Withdrawn

Persistent demand of owners of property along Grand River avenue between Eight-Mile road and the Farmington Lumber and Coal Company property for high prices for their frontage, which has seriously handicapped the State Highway Department for months, now threatens to block entirely the widening of the road to the Farmington business section. Within the last few days, it has been learned, the men at work obtaining the right-of-way have been withdrawn by the State Department, and the widening project is at a standstill.

The result may be, it is believed, a complete change in plans and an early start on building the cut-off to the south of Farmington. (Almost all of the right-of-way along this route has been donated.)

While no official statement has been obtainable, it has been apparent for some time that the State officials have become increasingly pessimistic regarding Grand River. Evidence of their difficulties has appeared from time to time. Although they were convinced some time ago that the people of this section desired the widening of Grand River first, the attitude of frontage-owners has put the Highway Department in a perplexing situation.

The problem which faces the Department now arises from the fact that widening Grand River to Farmington would cost thousands of dollars in indemnities alone, even though all those who have thus far refused to sign should immediately agree to what the State officials regard as fair terms. Contrasted with this is the situation in regard to the cut-off. Along this route, three miles long, it is said, that all but three comparatively small pieces of frontage have been donated to the State for highway purposes.

The Highway Department's dilemma now, in the fact of difficulties on Grand River, is how it will be able to justify to the people of the State the spending of thousands of dollars for frontage on Grand River, when an alternate route can be obtained practically without cost.

So greatly are the road officials disturbed by this condition, it is reported, that unless some improvement in the frontage situation on Grand River appears, they are inclined to leave the present 20-foot road in its wretched, congested condition, rather than risk the criticism that might follow from spending large sums of money for Grand River frontage, when the cut-off route can be obtained practically without cost. The officials, it is said, are even hesitant to go to the expense and trouble of condemnation for widening Grand River, when the alternate route is offered them without difficulty.

High Prices Asked

An instance of the demands made upon the State for damages has been reported as follows: A farmer said to own 161 feet of frontage on Grand River east of Farmington Junction, with a depth of 100 feet, was asked to dedicate the 22 feet required, and replied with a demand for \$200 per front foot or \$32,200, in spite of the fact that the property broadens toward the back so that there would be more Grand River frontage after the widening than at present. The property said to have cost them \$15,000 a few years ago.

Another instance reported regards 12 lots on the highway. It is said that parties having interests in these 12 lots managed to obtain the 12 lots directly back of the frontage pieces for \$1,000 each. Then, when the State approached them, it is said, they declined to dedicate or sell the frontage, their proposition being sale of the front lots entire. Their price was \$5,000 for each lot, or \$60,000 in all. If the facts were as stated, a profit of \$48,000 would be made at the expense of the State—if the State acceded to the demand.

An interesting development in connection with the Grand River situation, though not considered to bear directly on it, is the passage by the Legislature recently of the measure giving the State Highway Department and the State Administrative Board power to "go around" towns with trunk line highways, abandoning old roads if they see fit to do so.

Commission To Convene Monday

Five Of Seven Places Filled At One Election Unique In City Affairs

Mayor Arthur Lamb and the new Farmington City Commission will convene for the first time next Monday evening, to take up the business of governing the city.

One of the first acts of the Commission, under the Charter, will be to elect a mayor pro tem to preside whenever Mayor Lamb is absent. Among Mayor Lamb's first duties will be the assigning of Commissioners to the various departments of city affairs which they will supervise for the next two years.

Possibly never again will Farmington witness the seating of the seven members of the Commission following an election. Under the Charter, three Commissioners are elected every two years for four-year terms, and the Mayor is also to be elected. However, due to the fact that the term of Commissioner Harrison Johnson continued only until the election on April 4, there was an additional position to be filled. Under ordinary circumstances, no more than two Commissioners would be elected at the same time.

Other officials who take office upon qualification, by filing with the City Clerk a statement of campaign expenses, are: George Gildemester, treasurer; Nathan H. Power, clerk; James L. Hogle, assessor; H. A. Seeley, Joseph A. Karle, board of review; Muri Pettibone, Norman Barrons, constables; Ernest A. Fink, justice of the peace.

The Past Matrons of Farmington Chapter, O. E. S., will hold a meeting, also do sewing at the Michigan Childrens Hospital on Friday, April 19 from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. A good attendance is desired.

Plan 4 Buildings On Site Of Burned Home

Four new buildings are to be constructed for the Providence Hospital Home at 12-Mile and Ford Republic roads, it is reported, to replace the old structure, Villa Marillac, burned to the ground last November.

It is understood that bids are to be let in the near future. The plan is to erect one large and three smaller buildings.

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