

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 15

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 13, 1930

5c A Copy, \$1.50 A Year

Contests Begin For Farmington Township Posts

Charles A. Habermehl Enters Race Against Mark Bachelor For Treasurer

With the time limit for filing nomination petitions passed, the contests for offices in Farmington Township were determined Monday evening. Two candidates will contend for the offices of supervisor, treasurer and highway commissioner, and also one candidate for road overseer. No candidate appeared to oppose Willard Campbell for township clerk.

As was the case last year, Supervisor Harry N. McCracken will be opposed by Arthur Coe, former treasurer. A year ago another candidate was also before the people, William S. Kenyon.

The new contest which appeared just before the closing time for petitions, is that for township treasurer. Petitions were filed for Charles A. Habermehl, who will contest with Mark Bachelor. Mr. Bachelor was a caucus candidate two years ago, before the primary system was adopted.

Graham and Goers
Observers predict a decision by a few votes in the struggle between Joseph Graham, former highway commissioner, and Charles Goers, present incumbent. Last year Goers won by 39 votes in a total of over 700. The count was 352 for Goers, 313 for Graham and 40 for Edward Meyer, the third candidate.

Petitions have been filed for Ward Eagle, present justice of the peace, who will leave the Township Board in July, for another term. This would bring Mr. Eagle back to the Board again in two years.

Petitions for Don Button, member of the board of review, have been filed, for re-election. As usually happens, no petitions have been filed for constable, those whose names are written in will be declared nominees.

For Overseer
Charles Helmsley and William Sage have petitions on file for road overseer, in the northeast quarter of the Township.

The primary will be held on Monday, March 3, from 8 o'clock in the morning to 8 o'clock in the evening. Polling places will be at the Bond School for District No. 1, and at the Oddfellows hall, Clarenceville, for District No. 2.

EXCHANGE CLUB PLANS SHARE IN BROOKS MEMORIAL

Letters To Be Sent To Birmingham For Stamping With Special Seal

Farmington Exchange Club is to participate in the unique memorial to the late Harry Brooks, Southfield air pilot who was lost off the Florida coast two years ago, the memorial being planned by the Birmingham Exchange Club.

On February 25 the second anniversary of Brooks' death, all air mail sent through the Birmingham postoffice will be stamped with a special cachet, or seal, designed in memory of the flyer. Birmingham Exchange Club members and other Birmingham citizens will send hundreds of letters to the Birmingham Exchange Club.

The general public is invited to share in this memorial. Letters may be mailed direct to the Birmingham postoffice, reaching there by February 24, or may be given to the Exchange Club. Olin Wessell has volunteered to take the letters to Birmingham.

Each member of the Exchange Club is to send a letter to another member, and in addition, the Club has voted to address a letter to the family of Brooks, in honor of his memory. All letters are to be brought to the meeting next Wednesday noon.

Letters sent to the Birmingham postoffice for mailing February 25 may be mailed at any time, and will be held there until that date.

Anyone wishing to send letters with the special stamp may also bring or send them to the Enterprise office if they wish. Envelopes must either be air mail envelopes or bear an air mail stamp.

Rev. C. McGee Author Of 'Century' Article On 'Middletown Religion'

Old Mail Schedule Is To Be In Effect

Farmington is to have its former afternoon mail schedule back again, according to announcement by Postmaster Thomas H. McGee, who stated that the change was to go into effect Thursday afternoon.

The afternoon outgoing mail will be dispatched as always at 4:45 p. m., and the incoming mail will arrive shortly after 5 o'clock, as was the case before a change occurred a few weeks ago. The window will be opened each evening as soon as distribution is completed, usually a few minutes after 6 o'clock.

Father And Son Dinners Planned

Three Churches To Hold Annual Events Within Coming Week

Preparations are being completed for two father-and-son and one father-and-daughter banquet during the coming week. Two will be held Friday evening, February 14, and the other next Wednesday evening, February 19.

Farmington Methodist Church will be the scene of the dinner for fathers and daughters, Friday night. Dr. W. J. Phelps, editor of the Michigan Christian Advocate, will be the chief speaker. Archie G. Leonard will act as toastmaster. Roberta Russell will give the toast to fathers, and James Van Valkenburg will respond with a toast to the daughters.

Miss Margaret Webster will present a reading, and music will include a solo by Miss Ernestine Pierce and numbers by the quartette, Miss Gertrude Andrews, choir chairman, assisted by Mrs. F. L. Cook. Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Adams are in charge of the dinner.

West Point Park will hold its fourth annual father-and-son banquet Friday evening, February 13, with Charles L. Wilson, assistant prosecutor, will be toastmaster. Rev. George Gullen will offer the toast to sons, and George Gullen, Jr., will respond. Dr. Morton C. Pearson will give the main address. Music will be provided by Edward Eaton, Albert Owen and the "B. B. Bawlers."

Community singing led by Mr. Eaton will conclude the program.

Magician Coming
Fathers and sons at the Salem Evangelical Church dinner next Wednesday evening, February 19, will see John E. Mathers, a performer of high reputation, perform wonders for them. Rev. Armin Haessler of Grosse Pointe will be the speaker of the evening. In addition to these features will be Pauline and Evangelical church boys who are members of the high school band.

Clarenceville Methodist Church held its annual father-and-son banquet last Friday evening, with a good attendance.

Plan Ten-Cent Lunch For School Children

A hot-lunch service for Farmington grade school children is to be opened next Monday in a house near the School. The children will be served a lunch each day for 10 cents.

The project is a non-profit one, it is sponsored by Mrs. Erskine Evans. Only the grade children will be served. The lunches will be served in a house owned by Mrs. Herman Schneider, on Warren street. A number of other women are to assist Mrs. Evans in the work.

Mrs. Albert Dove returned to her home in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, caring for her sister, Mrs. Albert Sulkowski who had been very ill. Mrs. Sulkowski is now able to be up.

Father and son banquet at the Salem Evangelical Church, Wednesday, February 19. Seventy-five cents the plate. 16-1-c

Religious aspects of "Middletown," the remarkable study of "an average American town," which was published last year and created wide discussion throughout the country, is the subject of a review by Rev. Clyde McGee, native of Farmington and now minister of Bethany Union Church of Chicago in a leading article in the last issue of the "Christian Century," one of the outstanding church publications in the United States.

Rev. McGee, reviewing "Middletown," says in his report of the 38,000 people of this mid-Western state live most disquieting indications, as regards the church as well as in reference to life in general. As Rev. McGee reports, the book, which he declares is "too serious and scientific a book to be dismissed," shows that "the home is disintegrating, divorce multiply, government grows inefficient, voting falls off, the church is losing its hold, the ministers are discouraged, the secularization of life goes on apace, and under the strain and hurry of their living real peace of mind and serenity of spirit escape them."

Rev. McGee reviews religious beliefs as reported by the author, "Middletown," and finds that "the thinking upon these themes has remained unmodified by and received no inspiration from the priceless findings of the researchers of the last forty years in a score of fields." Sunday school methods, he says, "have changed little in forty years." ... going to Sunday School is much the same activity in all classes and in all churches and has changed relatively little since the nineties.

"Religion is used," Rev. McGee continues, "to insure prosperity and to promise material well being. ... Godliness is recommended as profitable, even from a business standpoint."

Rev. McGee says that it is among the laboring class that is the greatest loyalty to the church is found, religion offers a compensation for their hardships. He remarks, however, in respect to the church, that "the organization, in bargaining for its daily bread, has forgotten God. In its concern over management and method, it has lost sight of its purpose. The churches are too busy to live. ... The churches have declined as bases of association."

"The minister," declares Rev. McGee, "lives and works under the strain and urge to keep the machine going. He is selected by the church, not for his special fitness, to interpret the things of the spirit or for his training and ability as a religious teacher, and educator, but for the success he has had in previous fields in building up the masses. He is naturally must be a person to whom the young people will 'take,' a good mixer, a joiner. ... Christian thinking is not tolerated in Middletown."

The Rev. McGee thus concludes, is "not truly a shepherd of souls, but rather a promoter, a promoter of the church. ... The church becomes a religion, and being religious is doing chores for the church."

Modern methods, Rev. McGee says, have been adopted in other places, but not in church. "Of all the institutions of the town, religious activities show the least change. In their homes, the people are using the latest devices of science and invention. Religiously they are employing the patterns of the 18th century. A footnote mentions the fact that the first Packard car body developed by the manufacturers was thoughtlessly equipped with a whipstock. The church is keeping its whipstocks and regards them as having more importance than driving power. The church shows itself without understanding either of its own task or of the world in which it is to minister."

All this provides, Rev. McGee says, "a depressing picture of American life. The narrowness of the petty measurements and standards, the small prejudices, the timidity and fear with which life is lived. Who so is different is put under suspicion." In the faces of Middletown people is "the fear of life, the fear of living their own lives in the presence of the re-

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Masonic Lodge Asked To Make Town Hall Offer

Fraternity Requested To Make Proposal At Meeting On March 12

Early settlement of the Farmington Town Hall ownership question is regarded possible, with a meeting planned for March 12, at which Farmington Masonic Lodge is asked to present a plan for purchase of the Town Hall property, to representatives of the Township and City.

The request was decided upon at a meeting of the Township and City officials and the Lodge committee in the Warner Dairy Co. office last Thursday evening. For the better part of three hours the representatives wrestled with the problem.

Supervisor Harry McCracken outlined the purpose of the Township Board in its action to bring about an early settlement. The Township, he stated, is without a place to hold its meetings, keep its records, and carry out Township matters. Therefore, it desires to get its equity out of the Town Hall property as soon as possible in order to provide a place for its needs.

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On only one thing did these present appear to be generally agreed. It was that the most desirable outcome would be acquisition of title by the Masonic Lodge. As to a method by which the details might be settled, the differences were wide and persistent.

Township officials insisted that the Township could not suggest a price which the Township might take as its just price for the respective shares in the property were determined. The others contended that the Township should name a lump sum which it would accept for its share. Supervisor Harry McCracken countered with the statement that the Township could not fix a price on its share until it knew what that share was. The City and Masonic representatives responded with the statement that it was easier to name a price for the Township's interest than to settle the various percentages.

A copy of the agreement in which the purchase of the property and erection of the Town Hall was being read at the meeting was handed out.

Finally the suggestion was made by Howard Warner, of the Masonic Lodge committee, that the Lodge be asked to submit a proposition whereby it might acquire title to the entire property. The motion was passed unanimously.

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Fire Volunteers Meet And Form Organization

Volunteers of the Farmington Fire Department held a meeting recently in the fire hall to organize a fire department. Bernard Banfield leads the organization as chief and Norman Lee as assistant chief. Howard Osmus is secretary and treasurer.

The firemen are planning a benefit dance in the near future. Other advantages are anticipated as a result of having a regular organization.

Tolman vs. Utley Reported 'Ended' For Last Time; Costs Are Decided

Although the "end" of the famous Tolman vs. Utley dog case has been reported several times, what is declared to be the absolute termination of the struggle is announced by Paul A. Paré, Farmington attorney, counsel for James R. Tolman. The latest "ending" is a decision on costs by Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty.

According to the decision, Mr. Paré states, the defendant, Clarence Utley, is to pay costs, but not exceeding \$25. Mr. Utley also was required to pay a judgment of \$75 some time ago in Farmington justice court. Suit was begun by Tolman against Utley for the shooting of Tolman's dog, which was believed to have been a valuable dog. Judge John Schult awarded a decree of \$417 to Tolman, as damages and costs.

In the justice court, Mr. Utley appeared in his own defense,

Motorist Held Up By Two Armed Bandits At Junction

Pair Force Their Way Into Coupe When Driver Stops For Red Signal; Holdup Occurs While Police Are Working On Another

The series of automobile holdups in this section reached a climax early Thursday afternoon when two young men forced their way into a coupe at Farmington Junction, kept the driver a captive for an hour, and then threw him out of the machine outside of Northville, after robbing him of \$32.

The latest and most daring of holdups occurred in broad daylight, scarcely a hundred feet from the police booth at the Junction. It took place while officers, according to report, were checking up on the locating of a machine taken from its driver in a holdup Wednesday morning, and abandoned south of Oxford.

The two holdups were the fourth and fifth in which motorists had been victimized in this section within a few weeks.

Force Way Into Car
E. D. Nevins, 2516 Clairmont avenue, Detroit, was driving east on Grand River and stopped for the signal at Farmington Junction. Two men came up and opened the door, and stepped in, to the driver's astonishment. They ordered him to drive on, and at Middle Belt directed him to turn south. At Seven Mile road he was instructed to drive west.

The three rode in the coupe west to and through the village of Northville, and thence to the Fishery road, where the bandits ordered Nevins to stop and leave the car. Before he left, they took his money, \$32, from his pockets. Then they drove away.

A "Good Samaritan"
Frank Kerr, 19470 Danbury, Detroit, was a good Samaritan who was ill-rewarded for his kindness Wednesday morning. While driving on Seven Mile road between Coolidge and Wyoming roads, he stopped to give three men a "lift." A little later one drew a gun and ordered Kerr to drive as he was directed.

After a drive of many miles through the country north and east of Farmington, Kerr left the car on North Farmington road, near the farm residence of Kirby White, north of Ten Mile road. The bandits had taken 40 cents from him, while they stopped to look at the gasoline gauge. Kerr fled, although the bandits shouted to him to stop.

Kerr was on his way to collect his pay, amounting to about \$100, at the time. This accounted for his having so little money with him. His car was reported abandoned on McKinney road, three-quarters of a mile north of Plymouth, Thursday.

Kerr's machine, a four-passenger coupe, was taken to a garage nearby. Officers expect that the Kerr machine may be recovered within a short time.

MASONIC LODGE WILL HONOR PAST MASTERS MONDAY

Former Leaders To Occupy Chairs For Degree Work; Dinner To Be Served

Farmington Masonic Lodge will hold its annual Past Masters' Night next Monday evening in the Masonic Temple. An interesting program has been arranged to follow the Past Masters' dinner. Degree work will be exemplified in both afternoon and evening.

The event will start at four o'clock in the afternoon, with past masters in the officers' chairs. Arthur Lamb will act as worshipful master. Will Way, senior warden, Clarence Bickling, junior warden, Ralph Hogue, senior deacon, Ralph Utley, junior deacon, James L. Hogle, secretary, John Thayer, treasurer and Frank Lee, Tyler.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p. m. in the dining hall, followed by a program at which a prominent Detroit Mason will speak.

Following the program, the third degree will be performed, with one candidate. Ernest Ash will act as worshipful master in the evening.

Four candidates will be initiated in the afternoon.

Past Masters Arthur Lamb, William Way and Ernest Ash are the committee in charge of preparations.

Organization of a Boy Scout troop in Farmington will take place next week, following a meeting Tuesday evening at which 21 boys signified their desire to form the troop. The organization meeting is to be held next Tuesday evening at 7:30, at Farmington Methodist Church.

Decision has been made that the troop will be sponsored by the Methodist, Baptist and Salem Evangelical churches. Curtis Hall, of the Farmington High School faculty, has been asked to become Scoutmaster.

Much enthusiasm was shown at the meeting Tuesday evening at the Methodist Church. District Scout Commander Hatlock and Scoutmaster G. Swanson of Clarenceville were present, and also the following Farmington men: Principal A. R. Crawford, Dr. H. Addis Leeson, Erskine Evans, Howard Warner and Norman Barrons.

The boys will sign membership applications and take steps to obtain their uniforms at the meeting next Tuesday. All other boys aged 12 and 18 are invited to attend and join the troop.

A Scout Committee will be formed of citizens in the community. One member of each of the three churches sponsoring the movement will be on the committee. Board of County Scout leaders will attend the Farmington meetings for some time in order to assist in development of the organization.

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