

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 43.

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1930

5c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

School Boards Urged To Avoid Sueing Township

Committee To Investigate Possibilities of Raising \$42,000; Report September 8

Urged by an attorney not to become involved in a lawsuit over the \$42,000 owed to school districts by Farmington Township for taxes collected, trustees of the various school districts Monday evening appointed a committee to investigate possible methods of raising the money, which the attorney declared he was certain could be done.

The committee, consisting of Charles Ervin, chairman, Ernest Blanchard, Elmer Dohney, Lloyd Gulen, and Ward Eagle, will report to the district boards at a meeting to be held in Farmington High School the evening of Monday, Sept. 8.

Attorneys George E. Gulen and Ray O. Brown of Detroit, who had volunteered their services without charge, advised the school trustees that while they have a legal remedy which is prompt and drastic, they ought to use every possible means to avoid court action. Mr. Gulen said that "\$42,000 is not an impossible sum for a community like Farmington Township to raise, and that if it were a case of war or epidemic, it would be raised within a short time."

"Would Give Aid" Mr. Gulen said that "the practical thing to do is to get together and raise this money. I believe the banks would be willing to help out, even though the law bars them from making a loan to the township." He said also that he thought it would be possible to interest every concern doing financial business with the Township banks, bonding companies, buyers of tax-titles and others.

Mr. Brown told the trustees that their legal procedure would be to bring mandamus proceedings, which he described as a rapid and severe action that would, if successful, result in the former township treasurer being directed to produce the funds, the burden falling on his bonding company in case he was unable to do so.

"Can't Go On" Setrak Utjian, treasurer of Clarenceville School District, declared that his district would be unable to carry on the school without the \$12,800 due from the Township. He also declared that the District is unable to borrow more because of the \$12,800 it has not received.

In response to questions, Supervisor Arthur Coe said that of the \$42,000 due, \$18,000 had been paid the County for Coverd Road taxes, \$2,000 for Township-at-large and over \$5,000 for County-at-large. The remaining \$24,000 had been used for Township expenses. He said that if the \$42,000 were ordered put on the township tax roll at once it would mean an increase of \$6 per thousand. It was generally agreed that this would only result in greater delinquent tax than ever.

Arthur Lamb was elected chairman of the meeting and chose the committee for investigating means of raising the money. Fred Lahr of Clarenceville acted as secretary.

Admits Theft of 100 Ties At The Junction

Charged with stealing ties from the Eastern Michigan Railway yards at Farmington Junction, Charles Woods, 16824 Virgil Detroit, pleaded guilty Wednesday afternoon before Judge John J. Schulte in Farmington and was given a suspended sentence. He had returned 100 ties that had been taken.

Woods was arrested Monday by Officer Thomas Armstrong, on complaint of William White yardmaster. The license number of his truck had been seen and his identity learned in that way.

Tuesday To Be Last No-Penalty Tax Day

City of Farmington taxpayers gain a little time for paying their taxes as the last day of the month is Sunday and Monday is a holiday. City Treasurer Geo. C. Gildmeister announces that he will accept taxes until Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 2, without penalty, beginning Wednesday morning, four per cent penalty will be collected.

Crash Inquest Here Saturday

Ten Persons Subpoenaed For Inquiry Into Death of Girl On Cut-Off

An inquest into the death of Mary Margaret Essex, 18, 9634 Dumbarton Road, Detroit, in an automobile accident on the Cut-off southeast of Farmington early last Saturday morning, is to be held in Farmington Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The inquiry will probably take place in the court-room in the city building.

Ten persons have been subpoenaed to testify at the inquest. They are H. P. Thompson, who took the girl, first to Farmington in search for a doctor, and then to Redford Receiving Hospital; Dorothy Anderson, driver of the car, and friend of the dead girl, is summoned, as is Evelyn Barter, who has been in Redford Receiving Hospital since the accident, and who is now recovering.

Others subpoenaed are Henry W. Smith, who lives west of Farmington and is the son of C. F. Smith, millionaire chain grocer and owner of the Smith estate west of Farmington. Henry Smith was held for questioning for an hour and a half Saturday morning when it was thought that his car might have been the one which cut in ahead of the girls' roadster, catching the front portion and over-turning it. Mr. Smith was released after questioning by Assistant Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, who said there was no direct evidence connecting Smith with the accident.

Cleo Koone, State police officer, who said he passed Mr. Smith's car on the road not long before arriving at the scene of the accident is summoned, as is Bernard Rochester, also a State officer, who was with Mr. Koone. Theodore Hosted of Saffron, Mich., truck driver, who is said to have been the only eye-witness of the accident, was served with a subpoena at his home Wednesday morning by Constable Mal Pettibone.

James Essex, a brother of the dead girl, who was crushed and died within a few minutes, was also summoned to testify.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Saturday, August 30, is the last day for voters to register in the City of Farmington for the primary election on Sept. 9. Registrations will be accepted on that day by City Clerk Nathan H. Power, through the day.

Farmington To Have First-Class Athletic Field, 'Big League' Diamond

Work done this week indicates that Farmington school and community is to be one of the finest athletic fields in this section, in the new location on Shiawassee street. A first-class baseball diamond of the "big-league" type has already appeared, and is practically ready for play.

The field has been so laid out that the diamond is above regulation size, yet plenty of room remains for a football gridiron of ample size, neither interfering with the other.

The baseball diamond is at the west end of the field, the batter's

Plans Ready For Dedication Of Athletic Field

Parade From School to Field and Flag-Raising Ceremony Arranged

Plans have been practically completed for a brief but impressive dedication of Farmington's new athletic field next Monday morning. The ceremonies will include a parade, flag-raising exercises at the field, and remarks by the originators of the athletic field-development idea.

Trustee Lloyd Gulen, of the Board of Education, and Carl Goers, representing the American Legion, report that individuals and organizations asked to participate in the exercises have shown much enthusiasm, and there appears to be considerable general interest in the program.

Besides officials, Archie G. Leonard and former Mayor Wells D. Butterfield, who together arranged credit for planning the field, will have prominent parts in the exercises.

Gather at 9:15 It is planned to have the marchers and all others interested assemble at the school playground on Thomas street at 9:15 a. m. sharp on Monday morning.

The parade will be led by a color-guard of the American Legion, followed by the high school band in uniform. Officials and the speakers and members of the county will follow, and after them the boys and girls athletes of last year's high school teams.

Members of the two baseball teams to play at the field Monday morning will follow the athletic groups, and after them will come the Clarenceville and Farmington Boy Scout troops. Residents of the community are asked to follow either on foot or in automobiles.

To March To Field The procession will go west on Thomas street to Warner street, then south to Grand River and west on Grand River to Farmington Road. There it will turn north to Shiawassee and east on Shiawassee to the athletic field, entering the field by the driveway at the east end.

To Raise Flag The procession will march across the field to the flag-pole, where a selection will be played by the band. Mr. Butterfield will unfurl the flag, and President A. L. Ross of the Board of Education will raise the flag over the field, the band playing the national anthem. Boy Scouts will recite the flag salute.

Mr. Butterfield is to offer remarks, and following introduction of Supt. Dalrymple and Principal Burns, Mr. Leonard will give the dedication address followed by music by the band.

Mayor Arthur Lamb will pitch the first ball just before the game opens and Supervisor Arthur P. Coe of Farmington Township will be behind the plate to catch it.

It is requested that all groups meet promptly at 9:15 a. m. Monday, and that as many children and parents attend as are able to do so. The committee invites residents of nearby school districts to share in the dedication event.

Says '\$2,730,000 Southfield Drain Blunder' Will Cost County Million

The first political meeting that Farmington has had in a long time took place Wednesday evening, and it brought forth "fire-works" in regard to County affairs. It was held in the Town Hall.

Charges that "the \$2,730,000 Southfield Drain blunder" will cost Oakland County a million dollars, and take ten dollars out of the pockets of every taxpayer in the County, were made by John E. Cross, candidate for County Drain Commissioner, Lewis M. Wrenn, also a candidate for drain commissioner, declared that money has been spent in numerous drain funds to the amount of many thousands of dollars that will never be realized. Attendance was small at the

Slot - Machine Holdup Men Held

Attorneys Claim "Gambling Device Could Not Be Subject of Larceny

Although their three attorneys contended vigorously that the attempted theft of a slot-machine could not be construed as an attempt at larceny, four young men who are charged with trying to hold up Mammy's Bungalow on Grand River avenue West of Farmington the night of August 10 were bound over to the Circuit Court for trial by Judge J. J. Schulte Wednesday afternoon.

Joseph Shoemaker, proprietor of the barbecue stand, testified and told how he drew his gun and captured the three who were at his place.

The machine which the would-be bandits took out and were forced by him to return, contained mints and five or three dollars, Mr. Shoemaker testified. He said the machine was put in his place by a man from Pontiac, and operated on commission. It paid checks and mints, he testified.

During cross-examination of Mr. Shoemaker, Assistant Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson said the prosecution would concede the machine was a gambling device. Mr. Shoemaker was asked by a defense attorney the name of the owner, but said he did not know. He still has the machine, he testified, but is not operating it, because he does "not want to be held up again."

Vigorous contention was made that one defendant, John A. Cole, 23, should be released, because he was not present at the attempted hold-up. Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Gillette testified that Cole had told him he "got into the slot-machine racket because racketeers in Detroit said it was an illegal device and they could not arrest him."

Loetie Damm, attendant at the barbecue stand and Deputy William Tamm also testified. The same bond, \$1,500 was set.

Dr. H. A. Lesson preached last Sunday morning in his old home church at Manchester and closed his vacation visiting with relatives and boyhood friends.

New Principal



R. C. Burns, new principal of Farmington High School, formerly at Pittsford, Mich.

Schools To Open In This Section Tuesday Morning

Facilities Announced For Farmington and Clarenceville By Superintendents

Schools throughout this section will open for classes next Tuesday morning, September 2. Classes will be held all day on Tuesday in most of the schools. Faculties of the two largest schools in the section, Farmington and Clarenceville, are announced by the superintendents, J. A. Dalrymple and Jay L. Prescott. Both schools have new principals as well as new superintendents, and some new teachers on the staffs.

R. C. Burns is the new principal of Farmington High School, coming to Farmington from Pittsford. Mr. Burns has been principal also at Tekonsha High School and was high school athletic coach at Utica. He is a graduate of Charlevoix High School and Olivet, and spent one summer at Oxford College in England. He has been taking graduate work at the University of Michigan and has travelled extensively in many countries of the world.

Other members of the Farmington faculty and the subjects they will teach are: Maxwell Shadley, Science and Athletics.

Edward C. Eaton Instrumental Music and Mathematics. Lynn M. Rohrer, Commercial. Robbie Harrison, English. Emma Hyde, Home Economics. Freda Chettle, History and Latin.

Mabel Piercey, French and English.

Evelyn Edwards Shadley, Clerk and Librarian.

Lulu Loomis, Music and Art. Curtis Hall, eighth grade. Eldora Rubber, seventh grade. Kenneth Bisbee, sixth grade. Lucile Halstead, fifth grade. Evelyn Van Dyne, fourth grade. Winifred Thomas, third grade. Josephine Roe, second grade. Anna Marie Murphy, first grade.

John Wonderegum, kindergarten. Rosetti Barbour, school nurse.

Clarenceville Faculty Members of the faculty of Clarenceville Schools for the coming year are announced as follows by Supt. Prescott:

Central School Principal, Ethel Chase; Viola Walker, Helen Sarnes, Anthony Lawski, Stanley Smith.

1st grade, Ruth Penzoldt. 2nd grade, Ruby Monroe. 3rd grade, Mita Mark. 4th grade, Mildred Vank. 5th grade, Loretta Nugent. Music and Art, Margaret Ellen Jones.

Edgewood School Kindergarten, Edna Fischer. 1st, Jessie Way. 2nd grade, Ruth McLean. 3rd grade, Esther Tucker.

Farmington Young Man Chosen For Show Part

P. Owen Pauline of Farmington was picked among six aspirants of 150 who tried out for parts in George Gershwin's new musical show now playing in New York, according to information received in Farmington this week. The show, "Strike Up The Band," has played in New York for a year, and will soon go on the road.

Mr. Pauline was the first of the six selected, it is reported, and will be understudy to the juvenile lead. He left Farmington for New York last Friday.

BOYS' LEG IS BROKEN WHEN MOTORCYCLE FALLS

Edgar Barrons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Barrons, suffered four fractures of one leg Sunday when a motorcycle owned by Frank Schwein fell upon him. The boy was playing around the machine, when it tipped over, pinning him underneath.

Meeting Next Week;

A. W. Spencer To Talk

Farmington Town Hall has been engaged for next Thursday evening for a mass meeting at which Arthur W. Spencer, County Drain Commissioner and candidate for re-election, is scheduled to speak.

It is expected that Mr. Spencer will offer a defense against criticisms made at a meeting Wednesday evening by his opponents, John E. Cross and Lewis M. Wrenn.

not street corner gossip, nor idle talk, but excerpts from Supreme Court records, in the case of Smith vs. Spencer, Case No. 62, January term of the Michigan Supreme Court, 1920.

"Two years ago," said Mr. Cross, in the extreme south end of Southfield Township, petitions were circulated for a drain five miles long. Everything was conducted in a legal fashion, that is conceded.

"But at the same time, on the Nine, Ten and Eleven Mile Roads were subdividers who had property, and they conceived the idea that sewers would increase their possibilities of selling the land. You know, promoters of subdivisions don't stay on the land long enough to absorb the burdens of taxation. They get theirs and get out."

"Abandoned Plan" The County Drain Commissioner, Arthur W. Spencer, abandoned the plan which had been legally carried out. This made the proceedings null and void. But an attempt was made to make the thing elastic enough to cover the Nine, Ten and Eleven Mile Road sewers. Bonds in the amount of \$2,730,000 were floated the money obtained and the contracts let. The contractors moved in.

"Tax Above Assessment" "There were old residents on farms in that section, that had received no personal notice of this. Theresa C. Clinton and Anselm J. Smith started proceedings to stop it. Smith had a farm which was assessed at \$40,000, and his tax for this drain would be \$55,253.58. Clinton's farm land was assessed at \$60,000 and his tax for the drain would be \$62,847.88.

"They took this case to the Circuit Court. It was decided to re-route the drain off the complainants' premises and re-run it on the roads. But this left their assessment the same, and they carried the case to the Supreme Court.

"Gross Irregularities" "Six justices besides the judge who wrote the opinion concurred in the decision. I will read you their names—Wiest, Clark, Potter, Sharpe, North, and Fead. One, McDonald, did not sit in this case. In the decision on this case, we find the judges using such expressions as 'constructive fraud,' 'gross irregularities,' 'sheer waste and extravagance,' 'assessments in excess of valuation'. A permanent injunction was granted by the Supreme Court, restraining the Drain Commissioner from proceeding further. It had been attempted to (Continued on page five)