

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 12

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1931

6c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

## Bandit Drives Grocer Around, Pal Robs Store

Clarenceville Store Manager Put Out Of Bandit Car In Woods

Only a few weeks after he took charge of the C. F. Smith grocery store at Grand River and Eight Mile roads, Clarenceville, Earl J. Coffee, 23 years old, was held up Tuesday morning while on his way to open the store, and forced to ride around on the floor of the bandit's car while the driver's companion entered the store with Coffee's key and took \$33.47.

The key had been taken from Coffee's pockets by the bandits, who drove to the woods north of Grand River near Hemlock Stop, after the robbery, and there ordered their victim to "get out and run."

Coffee was held up just about daybreak while he was walking to the store. The bandits apparently knew him. Although they might have picked him up at a lonely spot on his half-mile walk to the store, they waited until he was near the Oddfellows Hall. He saw a car turn the corner toward him, and the door open.

Covered With Gun As Coffee walked past their car, one of the robbers leaped out, "covered" the store manager with a gun, and ordered him inside. The machine was a coupe, and Coffee sat in the back seat with one of the bandits, who put the victim's hat over his eyes and ordered him to keep his head down. Then he proceeded to rifle Coffee's pockets, saying meanwhile that it was the store money they wanted. He found and took the store-key.

As the car reached the store, they asked where the money was kept, and Coffee told them Eager to get away from the menacing weapon, he offered to go into the store and get the money for the bandits. They replied, however, that they didn't want him "fooling around in there."

Did Not Stop The car did not stop in front of the store, Coffee said, and as one gunman jumped out and went into the store the other drove on. He ordered Coffee to lie on the floor, and kept his victim covered throughout the drive. "It seemed like a mighty long time," said Coffee. "Finally, we got back, and I picked up the other man. My face was covered, and when they put me out I didn't know where I was. I located Grand River and a Farmington car came along just at that time. When I got to the store, the door was locked. The man had given me back my keys and when I went in, the store was just as I had left it Monday night, only of course the money was gone."

Loses Own Cash The gunman took several dollars from Coffee's pockets, he later discovered welfare checks for \$24 were with the money taken from the store, but cannot be used elsewhere and no loss will result from its being stolen.

Coffee was unable to describe the bandits. He is unmarried.

## 'Uncle Neal' Will Preside At Dance

A big feature is promised those attending the dance for benefit of children of the unemployed at Oddfellows Hall, Clarenceville, next Thursday evening, January 29.

"Uncle Tom" Neal of radio station WJR, Detroit, has consented to act as master of ceremonies, and has also promised to bring a number of artists from the studio. Tickets are on sale for the dance by members of the committee.

## More Time Given

Here On 1931 Plates

Farmington will accept the suggestion of Secretary of State Frank Fitzgerald that leniency be shown toward drivers with 1930 license plates throughout February, Chief of Police Lee Doyle said Thursday. The same situation will prevail in Pontiac and throughout most of Oakland County, but Police Commissioner James K. Watkins of Detroit was quoted as saying the law "would be enforced" there.

Secretary of State Fitzgerald said he has no authority to grant an extension beyond January 31, but believes leniency should be shown because of economic conditions.

## Seek City Water In Clarenceville

Extension Of Detroit Water Service To School On Base Line Probable

Extension of Detroit city water service to the Clarenceville school on Base Line road in the near future is regarded as almost certain, but attempts to extend the system still farther into one or two residential districts are doubtful of success.

These developments appeared at the Farmington Township Board meeting Tuesday evening when Charles Heise and Bruce Buchanan, the latter an engineer, interviewed the Board on the water proposition. They told the Board that petitions were being prepared, but that those interested did not wish to go ahead without knowing the views of the Township officials.

In order to obtain the service, the petitions must be signed by 65 per cent of the property-owners to be assessed, and must be approved by the Township Board. Bonds are then issued which become a general obligation of the Township in case of non-payment by the property-owners.

Board members expressed the opinion that they would not be inclined to oppose improvement wherever taxes are not delinquent and the property-owners are financially able to carry the burden, but that in tax-delinquent areas they would not approve the petitions. The section as far as the school building was said to be fully paid up in regard to taxes, and the Board members stated that they realized the great need of the school for a pure, dependable water supply. The extension to the school building would cost around \$4,000, it was stated.

Those receiving the water supply would be required to pay double the Detroit city rate. The double rate, however, is said to be less than \$5 a quarter.

## Farmington Boy Scout Committee Seeking Leader For Local Troop

Farmington's Boy Scout Troop, now well-organized and already possessed of an excellent record, is in need of a leader. With the resignation this week of Scoutmaster Erskine W. Evans, member of the Scout Executive Committee and long a popular figure in the community who is interested in boys and enjoys helping them to grow up into men of character.

Mr. Evans stepped into the breach some time ago when a former leader gave up the work and there was danger that the troop might not survive because of lack of a scoutmaster. He is, however, unable to continue the work because of demands upon his time, and the Committee is eager to get in touch with men who may

## Interceptor And Sewage-Treating Plan Given City

Proposed Work Would Eliminate Need For Disposal Plant, Is Report

Means by which the City of Farmington may avoid necessity for building a sewage disposal plant for a number of years to come, and may also comply with the requirements of the Michigan Stream Commission, was reported Monday night to the City Commission by Commissioner Emory Hutton.

According to the report, the adoption of this plan would also result in the State regarding the situation as cleared up from its point of view, and the Stream Control Commission would take no part in the matter of the Power avenue sewer discharging into the River Rouge, which question is now in Circuit Court.

Would Cost \$5,000

The cost of the proposed plan would be about \$5,000, it is estimated. It would include building of an interceptor from the present Grand River outlet to the outlet of the parallel trunk line to the south, a distance of about 600 feet. The cost of this line is estimated at \$1,300.

At the junction of the two trunks, a chlorination tank would be installed, with a chlorinating machine, and a house to protect these units. The machine costs about \$1,000 and the tank about \$500. It would also be necessary for the City to get right-of-way for the interceptor, which would, it is believed, be donated, and a right-of-way to drive to the plant. The chlorination plant would operate in the summer months only. The opinion was expressed that this would care for Farmington's needs for from five to 15 years.

## SEN. GANSSER TO SPEAK AT LEGION HOME DEDICATION

Program Announced For Ceremonies Next Thursday Evening

State Senator Augustus Gansser of Bay City will be in Farmington next Thursday evening to deliver the dedication address at the ceremonies which will open the new American Legion home in Farmington. The dedication exercises will begin at 7:30 p. m.

Department Vice Commander Frank Mitzell will act as chairman and Department Captain Rev. Stewart McClellan will act as chaplain. The Legion extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend and will hold open house for visiting guests. War relics will be on display. Friday will be devoted to entertaining Legionnaires from various parts of the State.

## Farmington Boy Scout Committee Seeking Leader For Local Troop

Interested. Whole-hearted co-operation is assured any man who will take up the work, the Committee states, and the troop has progressed so far that the biggest part of the job, organization and getting started right, is over. Any man who might be interested in the scoutmaster's work is asked to communicate with Howard M. Warner at Farmington or Floyd Hallock at Clarenceville. The next six or eight months are particularly important to the Farmington troop, the Committee states, and whoever will take up the work may do so with the understanding that it is to be for the spring and summer only, or on a permanent basis, at his option.

## Legality of Fire Truck Purchase Is Questioned

Township Citizens Raise Doubt Regarding Agreement Made With City

Legality of the arrangement by which the City of Farmington is purchasing a truck for use in Township fires, intended eventually to become the property of the Township, was questioned Tuesday evening at the meeting of the Township Board by a group of Township citizens who attended the session.

Former justice of the peace Ward Eagle brought the matter before the Board, stating that he had an opinion from the Prosecuting Attorney indicating that the making of the agreement was out of line with the State law on the matter.

Members of the Board said that they had been advised that there were three ways by which the Township could obtain fire-protection: by vote of the people on petition, by setting up a special assessment district, and by contracting with a village or city that maintains a fire department. Mr. Eagle contended that the Township could not take title to the fire truck at the end of three years, inasmuch as this would make the arrangement a purchase.

To Consult Lynch The Board, after considerable discussion, voted to authorize Supervisor Arthur P. Coe and Clerk Willard Campbell to consult Attorney James H. Lynch of Pontiac in regard to the legality of the agreement entered into.

The opinion of the prosecutor read by Mr. Eagle was as follows: Act 28 of the Public Acts 1923, provides in part as follows:

"No township shall appropriate money for the purchase and housing of such fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment except upon the petition of at least one-third of the resident taxpayers thereof, which petition shall be filed with the township board at least thirty days before the time fixed for the annual township election and it shall be the duty of the township clerk to include the proposition to be voted upon in the notice of annual election, and to prepare the ballots therefor."

"Only Part Of Law" Justice Walter Headerle declared that this paragraph was only part of the statute, and that sanction for the arrangement made was contained in another paragraph.

Discuss Welfare

Aid being extended people on the welfare list of the Township was discussed at length by the citizens present and members of the Board. About 100 are on the welfare list. The citizens present offered to aid Supervisor Coe wherever they could by supplying knowledge which would help to determine who are the needy and deserving poor, and who should not be given aid. Supervisor Coe declared that if any receiving aid from the Township are found to have falsified their affidavits of indigence, they will be promptly prosecuted, this being a prison offense.

The citizens present, nearly all residents of the north part of the Township, included the following: Lyman Egan, Charles Burton, Edwin Boyce, Leroy Curtis, Stanley Drake, Ward Eagle, Charles Ervin, Charles Grams, Amasa Gracie, Ed Grimmmer, Herman Grimmmer, Emmett Houghton, Ray Marsh, Howard McCracken, Frank Roberson, Ernest Schellenburg, E. T. Sturman, Mrs. E. T. Sturman.

The citizens present expressed themselves as favoring reduction of road-lighting as an economy measure. The Board voted to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to obtain an opinion from Attorney Lynch regarding the status of the township's contract for the lighting.

## Two Ask Permission To Run Jitney Line On Grand River

Half-Hourly Service With 15-Cent Fare Between Five Points And Farmington Suggested By Applicants; Would Use Passenger Cars

Two applications for permission to operate jitney buses through Farmington as part of a Farmington-Five Points line were made to the City Commission Monday evening. The applicants pledged service on a half-hourly basis, and while making no promises as to fare, expressed the opinion that a 15-cent rate might be adopted.

Both applicants, H. Brown of Independence and Hancock streets, Clarenceville, and W. L. Rubel of Farmington Acres, would use passenger sedans. Each promised he would operate seven days a week if granted a license.

Mayor Arthur Lamb designated Commissioners Amos Otis and Fred Staman to consider the matter of transportation, assisted by Howard M. Warner. The Commission took no action on the applications. Commissioner Emory Hutton suggesting that it might be well to find out what plans the Detroit Department of Street Railways might have. Mr. Hutton said that Del A. Smith, general manager, had said that when the tracks were removed, the D. S. R. would probably provide service with the Deluxe red buses which now operate at certain periods as far as Redford. Mr. Smith said, Mr. Hutton stated, that the fare would probably be 20 cents.

Last Freight Monday

Meanwhile notice has been received that freight shipments to Farmington by rail will cease at midnight next Monday, January 26. Nothing has been learned to indicate a change in the date set for suspension of passenger service, February 1.

Three Drivers Mr. Brown told the Enterprise that if granted a permit, he would buy three new passenger cars and hire two drivers, also driving himself. He would begin running at 5 o'clock in the morning, running three cars throughout the day, until 9 p. m. From 9 p. m. to midnight he would run two cars and from 12 to 1 a. m. one car for the last riders. Mr. Brown said that he had had experience operating trucks, but not passenger lines.

W. L. Rubel, 3370 Edward avenue, Farmington Acres, said he would put on three cars and any additional ones that might be required. He proposed to operate from 5:30 a. m. to 1 a. m., with 20-minute service from 5:30 to 8 a. m., and from 4:30 to 7:20 p. m., the morning and evening rush-hours. Asked as to his experience, Mr. Rubel told the Enterprise that he has operated a passenger line between 10 and 20 miles in length. He would use two passenger cars comparatively new, and has another machine which can be converted into a bus to carry at least ten people.

Discuss Fare During the discussion, it was stated that the Deluxe bus fare from Redford to downtown Detroit being 30 cents, a 20-cent fare to Redford from Farmington would make a total of 50 cents. This could be held down to 26 cents, however, by the passenger who wished to leave the Deluxe bus at Five Points and board the street-car, on which the fare is six cents.

## ALL OF TOWNSHIP VOTERS MAY HAVE TO RE-REGISTER

Township Board Considers Suggestion For Check-Up Of Poll-Books

All voters in Farmington Township may be re-registered this year, as a result of suggestions to the Township Board Tuesday evening by a group of citizens attending the Board meeting. A re-registration is scheduled by the State statute for June, 1932, at which time everyone in the Township entitled to vote must register in order to be able to cast a ballot thereafter. Following discussion of the condition of poll-books, the Board voted to ask the County Prosecutor for an opinion as to what could be done prior to the time of the general re-registration to be held next year.

The condition of the poll-books apparently is due to absence of any means by which the election boards or township clerk might be empowered to keep them up-to-date.

Ward Eagle, former justice, began the discussion by stating that the poll-books in Precinct No. 1 are in bad condition, containing not only names of people who have died and others who have moved away, but also of residents of Farmington City. The latter names apparently were not removed when the City was incorporated. The poll-books now in use are not the same as were used at that time, five years ago, but the new poll-books were made up by himself. (Continued on page five)

Try an Enterprise Liner.