

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## School Plans Refunding Program

Farmington School District No. 5, will, unless some unforeseen difficulty develops, soon be in financial circumstances comparable to the splendid position achieved by the City of Farmington in recent months. Steps are under way to lift the school districts out of financial straits, in the same way in which the municipality has been relieved of pressing obligations and put on a strong going basis.

Unmistakable evidence of the improved financial status of the district appeared a few weeks ago in an announcement of a 10 per cent increase in salaries for all teachers in the schools who had been on the faculty prior to this year. The raise, effective at once, would have been impossible, of course, without a better financial position. Yet it was not so many months ago that the teachers had back pay still due them, from the days when the district was able to pay them nothing at all, at least on a small fraction of the drastically reduced salaries.

**Refunding Program**

The primary move is a comprehensive refunding program. The usual importance is a comprehensive refunding program for the entire bonded debt of the district. Under the plan proposed, all of the district's \$60,000 indebtedness would be placed in individual bonds as at present, all of the bonds are in default as to principal. One large group of bonds amounting to \$22,000 has become due during the depression and nothing could be done towards payment.

Following the highly successful refunding program by which the debt has been put in excellent condition, both bondholders and the school district officials have been interested in possibilities in similar action. In fact, the impetus for the move is said to have originated with the bondholder. Although they would not receive payment in cash, interest would be paid to date, and the bonds would be taken out of the default class, thus enhancing their value greatly. It is worth mentioning, however, that the bonds of the district affected by the depression maintained a fairly high price, which, though considerably below par, was still far in excess of the figures to which bonds of some districts fell.

The proposed plan would spread the outstanding bonds over a period of 30 years, making a principal payment of \$2,000 each year. Interest would be approximately \$3,000 a year on the balance, making a total of \$5,000 annually for the district to raise for bonded indebtedness. With the return of better times and a higher percentage of taxes received, the district would have no trouble in providing this amount each year.

Five thousand dollars is now on hand in the sinking fund which will all defaulted interest could be paid. Thus the state would be wiped clean and the district could start over on a debt-free basis.

The Board of Education, at a special meeting Monday evening, discussed the plan with a representative of some bondholders. Archie G. Leonard, counsel for the board, attended the conference. With the approval by the board and the bondholders, and legal questions passed on favorably by attorneys, the refunding program would move quickly toward completion.

A further advantage of the refunding program would be the halting of two suits already begun against the district, to require payment of past due bonds.

## Deer Blamed for Damaging Farm Crops

A number of requests have been received by the Department of Conservation this fall for damages alleged to have been caused by deer on farm crops.

"The department cannot meet such claims," said H. B. Saxe, chief of field administration. "There is no provision in the law allowing compensation for crop damage charged to deer, and any request that such a nature have been paid by the Department have no basis in fact."

## Town Hall Landscaping Project Nearing Completion-Fence Planned

Residents of Farmington, and visitors, too, have noted the greatly improved appearance of the Farmington Town Hall lawn at the corner of Farmington road and Grand River. Greatly exceeding the expectation of officials in charge, who expected little to show on the surface this year as the result of the work done, grass has grown rapidly and the entire appearance of the corner is changed.

The improvement has met with much favorable comment in the community. For a long time many civic-minded citizens had been concerned about the appearance of this public place in the center of the town. Women have been especially active in urging its improvement, and Farmington Women's club has on several occasions called

public attention to the matter. The Club has been interested in improving the lawn at the property around the Town Hall.

In addition to planting of shrubs and flowers as well as seeding the lawn, another improvement is being considered by officials. It is believed that a fence along the sidewalk on both Grand River and Farmington Road sides, will be valuable if not essential next spring, to keep the lawn from being trod upon extensively, and perhaps ruined. The fence being considered would be made by city employees, of iron pipe, and painted either green or green. It would extend practically all the way around the sidewalk leading to the east entrance, to that leading to the south door.

## Farmington '11 To Play Brighton

Enthusiasm among the Farmington High School football candidates is running high as their first game of the season draws near. The game is to be played Friday, Oct. 4, with Brighton High School at Brighton.

The schedule of the Farmington team was altered somewhat owing to the delayed opening of school. Coach Kammerer called the first practice of the season for Tuesday, September 24, at the original scheduled opening of school. At that time 18 candidates reported. Before they had an opportunity to learn any of the plays and get themselves in condition for the first game, the original schedule, with Centerline High School, September 20, and with South Lyon High School on the 27th, health officials and school authorities feared it necessary to delay the opening of school for two weeks until September 23.

In the meantime, Coach Kammerer got in touch with the members of his team the best he could, urging them to learn various plays and work out individually so that they could begin earnest training with the opening of school.

**Twenty-six Report**

In response to the call for practice at the opening of the schools, 26 candidates reported. Among them were six veterans who had played on the Farmington team before. Most of the others were recruits.

The game with Farmington will be Brighton's second game this season. In its first game the Brighton eleven exhibited skill as well as strength in the execution of most of its plays. Coach Bull of Brighton states that the average weight of his regulars is 150 to 155 pounds. The average weight of the Farmington regulars is lower. However, Coach Kammerer is depending upon the strength of his backfield to make a good showing in this week's game. In spite of the short time the team has had for practice, he feels it will do well in its first game.

If the Farmington team makes good in its first game, it will give them confidence for the rest of the games this season, Coach Kammerer stated.

**Brighton Players**

Those who probably will play on the Brighton team in the Farmington game are: Robert Timmons, end; Wendell Clark and Clifford Nays, tackles; Chester Don Boecky and Melvin Green, guards; Edwin Kosakowski, center; Carl Jidewick, quarterback; Ted Pottish, fullback; Melbourne Miller, utility man.

The subs are James Largo, John Litsenberger, Rupert Mitchell, Philip Young, Robert Moran, Edward Sak, James Balsbury and Leo Deive.

## City Commission to Consider Bond Tenders

Farmington city officials will consider bond tenders to the amount of \$4,000 of the 4% to 4% Water Refunding Bonds, dated October 15, 1934, at 8 o'clock Monday evening at a meeting in the office of the City Clerk. Tenders will also be accepted on 4% Sewer Refunding Bonds, dated October 15, 1934, at the same meeting.

Bondholders are reminded that their tenders must be submitted in person, and the award will be made at which owners will sell to the sinking fund. No prices above par will be considered.

## Freshman School Plans Undecided

Whether Farmington will have a freshman college during the coming fall and winter depends on unknown factors yet undetermined by higher officials.

A short time ago, it was believed that the program for Farmington and the entire State was well under way and there were indications that it would be substantially as last year. Recently, however, a State official came into the picture and threw everything into confusion by declaring that there must be applied to the freshman college projects, as to some other phases of government relief work, the ruling that all employed in the activity must be on the welfare.

The ruling, it was said, would apply not only to the director and teachers of such freshman colleges as that in Farmington, but also to the higher officials guiding the entire freshman college program. It is felt that if any in either category are on relief rolls, this has put a complete halt on all plans for freshman colleges for the present.

It is believed the situation will be straightened out in the near future, since practically all teachers and everyone connected with the freshman college work, are likely to have some property, either real or personal, and thus would not be eligible under the rule stated. Some interest has been shown in public resumption of the college in the community.

## RUDOLPH LANGBECKER DIES IN REDFORD

Rudolph Langbecker, 67, died after a brief illness in his home, 21670 Bennett avenue, Redford, on September 26.

Formerly of Farmington where he lived on Elven Mill road, Mr. Langbecker and his family were here for four years ago when they moved to Redford. He was employed by the Wayne County Road Commission.

Surviving Mr. Langbecker are his wife, Francis, and a married son, Kenneth, whose home is in Redford.

Funeral services were held at the Heekin Funeral Home and at the Baptist church, Farmington, where Rev. Gilbert Miles conducted the services.

## AUTO OPERATORS' LICENSE FIGURES TAKE BIG JUMP

Evidence that automobile operators of the state realize the necessity that they carry operator's licenses, is given by figures in the office of the Secretary of State. These show that operator's and first six months of 1935 totaled 528,532, as contrasted with a total of 272,519 for the same period of 1934. The number of drivers has not increased materially; the explanation lying in the fact that the time in the past there have been as many as 200,000 unlicensed operators on the highway. Fifteen cents on the dollar charged by the state for each of the licenses is returned to the treasurer of the state in the amount in which the license is issued. This return totaled \$10,667.60 for the first half of 1934; \$19,935.60 for the first half of 1935.

## Appeal Made For Careful Driving

Highly pleased by the remarkable traffic record of the past month, officials of this area urge the people of Farmington and vicinity to continue their careful driving. The splendid record that has been made during September.

Not a single accident of consequence has been recorded on the books of Deputy Sheriff Joseph DeVriendt of Farmington since before August 1. This is a very remarkable in view of the fact that the Labor Day weekend alone ordinarily accounts for large numbers of mishaps, many serious and a few fatal. This was true in a number of neighboring communities this year, but in Farmington where the same sense of trouble has continued through September.

## Schools Open-Care Urged

A special appeal to all drivers of motor cars to use extra precaution in driving is made this week by Mayor Warner of Farmington. The schools are opening in Farmington Township, Deputy DeVriendt and officials of the various schools in the community, it is particularly emphasized that now, with the large number of children walking to and from school every day, drivers should be especially careful.

Although attention is first directed to Grand River because of the volume of traffic and the fact that more children walk on that avenue than any other, extra motor-vehicle along all other roads is also being urged.

Large numbers of them travel along the highway and are forced to make many stops. A large percentage of all accidents in connection with travel of pupils to and from school occur in connection with the bus-riding, leaving of buses by the boys and girls. One pupil was killed about two years ago on Grand River avenue west of town in just this kind of a situation. Accordingly, all motorists are strongly urged to use the utmost caution whenever they are in the vicinity of school boys and girls are either riding or walking along the highways to and from school in the Farmington area, may be understood from the fact that of the 61 pupils at the Farmington High school senior class this year, 44 are students who live outside the district in which the school is situated.

**Slower Driving Asked**

In endeavoring to protect the safety of children, officials have practically unanimously agreed that the one factor of first importance to hold down traffic accidents and avert tragedies is the restriction of speed. Drivers are appealed to on this point, and are urged to drive slowly, allowing more time to reach their destination. It is believed that a large proportion of all accidents could be averted by lesser speeds, particularly in cases of children being carried by motorcars. Officials therefore, on behalf of the boys and girls of this area, urge everyone in this vicinity to use the greatest care, and thereby set a good example for visiting motorists.

## Fishing Law Violations Result in 257 Arrests

Approximately 70 per cent of the 323 arrests for violations of game and fish laws during August were for illegal fishing, according to the monthly report of the Field Administrator, Division, Department of Conservation.

For a five month period the total arrests for violations of the fishing laws was 257, of which 125 were for fishing without a license. Sixty individuals were arrested for violations of the hunting laws, an increase of approximately 100 per cent over the figure of the previous month. One offender was charged with illegal trapping and five were taken on miscellaneous charges.

Fines totaling \$1,993 and costs amounting to \$2,078.40 were assessed in justice court, the report shows. Fines were suspended in 100 cases and a total of 365 days in jail terms was imposed. Fifty-one offenders were charged with misdemeanors or suspended sentences were recorded in nine cases, and five violators were allowed probation.

## MILK PRODUCTION AVERAGES \$800 FOR EACH FARM

According to the Dairy Department of the Michigan State College, Michigan has a dairy cow population of 830,000 head, producing annually \$48,000,000 of dairy products. Of this number approximately 112,000 head are owned by the 14,000 members of the Michigan Milk Producers' association, in the Detroit area. Last year these farmers produced 1,200,000 quarts of milk, of an average of \$800 per farm.

It is interesting to make comparison on income per farm. The production records indicate that many farmers have considerably larger incomes than others with the same number of cows. Roughly speaking, the farmer who produces 150 quarts of milk per year from these figures is quite evident that part of dairyman's income is determined on the farm by the kind of cow he keeps and how they are cared for. The figures also seem to indicate that if the poor cows could receive twice the present price for their product, they still would not be profitable to their owner.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Westfall and Mrs. Ralph Auten made a business trip to Pontiac, Friday.

## Skeet Shooting Novice Astounds Club Members with 92% Score

Since skeet seems to be the "love of the hour" in Farmington because everyone is taking about skeet and nothing else, the story is told of the prominent young skeeter who has covered himself with glory during recent weeks. In fact he would be called a child prodigy if he were not already quite a grown man. Yet in another sense he is literally speaking, a "child wonder," because as far as the gentlemanly pastime of skeet is concerned, he is a mere "beginner."

Some time ago the Enterprise carried a story in which it stated that both Harrison Johnson and Curt Hall had broken 23 out of 25 birds during a shoot at the new Farmington Skeet Club. Now assuming that the gentlemen in question are experienced shooters, the score of 22 out of 25, although

## City Discovers New Shortage

While the suit against two sureties of a former city treasurer has been held in abeyance by a writ of counsel, City of Farmington officials have discovered, much to their regret, evidence of further shortage. What perturbs them most is the fact that while the latest shortage discovered was not of great amount, it occurred in a quarter which had heretofore been believed undisturbed.

The additional discrepancy was discovered in one taxpayer's account for county, state and school taxes. Previously the shortage had been in city tax account by a few dollars. It was just then discovered that a home-owner living near the center of town had not been credited with payment of his county, state and school taxes, but he has a signed receipt for these items.

Authorities immediately began to consider the possibility of numerous other accounts being in the same condition. The discovery occasioned a search for missing amounts. It means that not only must the amended bill of complaint be filed in the suit, setting up an additional amount asked by the city, but also that a new wide field of possibility is opened up. It is thought it might take years to learn the full extent of the shortage. The only method by which it could be exactly determined, according to one official, would be to make contact with every owner of every piece of property in the city, and get a definite statement as to whether or not he had paid his taxes, and ask him to produce evidence that he had.

The suit has been deferred during recent months by arrangement between the city and the sureties, and the city and Archie G. Leonard for the sureties on the bond, Harrison Johnson and Clyde Chamberlain. During the period which the defendants were given to file an answer it was agreed that the matter should be delayed while counsel for the city made a further investigation into some phases of the matter.

## New Leader Directing Band at High School

Ralph Banta, director of the band at Farmington High School, has taken over the duties of his new position, formerly occupied by Edward Eaton.

Mr. Banta is a graduate of Michigan State Normal and has recently been awarded his master's degree by the University of Michigan. Before he came to Farmington, he was music director at Romulus. His experience there was preceded by five years teaching at Livertyville. Under his leadership the band made its first appearance since the opening of school, at the football game with Brighton, Friday, October 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Oldenburg have purchased the Sulzbrack home on Pickett Avenue, and will occupy it after the middle of October.

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## Victims of Stabbing May Recover

Although both were at first believed to be fatally injured, Lewis Clower, 46, and Ruby Gladys, 35, of Seelye and 11-Mile Roads are now expected to recover from the wounds suffered when Clower, in a fit of jealousy, attacked and beat the woman and then stabbed himself Tuesday morning in the home they have occupied at Seelye and 11-Mile Roads, northwest of Farmington. Both are in Pontiac General hospital, the woman having been brought about the head with a pipe from the home, which she was following which he stabbed himself in an effort at suicide.

An charge of attempted murder (face Clower if he recovers, according to Assistant Prosecutor Archie G. Leonard, who is handling the case).

The neighborhood was thrown into a turmoil early Tuesday morning as help was summoned to stop Clower's attack it being reported that he had barricaded himself in his home, armed with a shotgun. A squad of deputies rushed from Pontiac in support of Deputy DeVriendt.

Officers met no resistance but found the couple, each in a pool of blood in the basement of the small home in which they lived.

Mrs. Clower later told Mr. Leonard she had divorced her husband to come to Michigan from the South with Clower two years ago.

The woman, when questioned by Mr. Leonard, gave her maiden name as "Ruby, Canada," but in answer to the questioning did the woman refer to Clower as her husband," said Assistant Prosecutor Leonard.

Mr. Leonard said that both Clower and the woman had been reported as previously married in West Virginia. The woman has two children by her first marriage and Clower has 10. All of them are living in West Virginia. The man and woman have lived here since last June.

According to Russell Faulkner, 22, half brother of Mrs. Clower, and a sister, Miss Macy Faulkner, 23, the group had come to Farmington from West Virginia. Miss Faulkner is employed in Farmington.

In a statement Assistant Prosecutor Leonard and Sheriff Spencer C. Howarth, Tuesday, the woman victim, asked if she was a prostitute, the assistant should be live, said: "Sure, if I get well."

The stabbing occurred at about 5:15 Tuesday morning. Part of the struggle which preceded the stabbing was observed by Faulkner, from whom Clower rented part of the house.

Awakened by noise Mrs. Oliver, who was asleep upstairs, and Faulkner, who was sleeping downstairs, were both awakened by the commotion in the basement. According to the story told to Deputy Joseph DeVriendt of Farmington by Faulkner, he heard his sister scream for help. He rushed downstairs, clad only in his undersweater, ran out the front door of the house and around to the side door entrance to the basement. When he opened the door, he saw his sister lying on the floor at the foot of the stairs in a pool of blood. Instead of going downstairs he ran through the fields to the Lambert farm after Clower had thrown a jar of tomatoes at him. The jar struck the side door a few inches from his head.

Since the Lamberts do not have a telephone, Faulkner went to the home of Edward Seelye. Seelye called Deputy DeVriendt. When Deputy DeVriendt arrived he was told by Faulkner that Clower was desperate and in the basement with a gun. Deputy DeVriendt immediately called Pontiac for reinforcement. Sheriff Howarth and Deputy Howarth, clad only in a Harundersweater, ran out the front door with tear gas bombs. Believing Clower to be barricaded in the basement they surrounded the house.

The weapons used in the attack are being held in Pontiac by the Sheriff's department as evidence.

On the plaster wall of a bedroom, deputies found two penciled notes the couple had written after the attack. One said: "My life occupied with a gun and a brick. Love will be remembered. Ruby."

Immediately below this: "It was caused from Ruby wanting to go with other men."

## NOVEMBER FIRST DEADLINE SET FOR 1934 TAXES

Now that many taxpayers have paid up their back taxes of 1932 and prior years before Sept. 1, 1935, and several tax and penalties, the next thing for them to worry about is another deadline for the payment of 1933-1934 taxes.

The deadline is November 1. If paid in full before November 1, 1935, several taxes of 1933 and 1934 may be taken care of by paying only the net amount of the tax plus a four per cent collection fee. If not paid before Nov. 1, in addition to the collection fee, there will be 1933 tax and eight months' interest on the 1934 taxes. The interest rate of three-fourth of one per cent per month or nine per cent a year. The 1933 and 1934 taxes cannot be paid on the deferred basis. Interest will be charged on special taxes irrespective of the time of payment.

The law provides that back taxes (for all years but 1934) not paid in accordance with the provisions of the law will be charged on special settlements since that date with penalties and interest added since the first of the month.

Even though some failed to take advantage of the opportunities offered for payment of 1932 taxes before September 1, several taxpayers have made settlements since that date with penalties and interest added since the first of the month.

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