

10c Phone Rate to Redford Expected

Reductions in telephone rates for calls to nearby communities, forecast early last summer in an article in The Enterprise to include the entire metropolitan area of Detroit, are to be made early in the coming year, according to information from Lansing.

The most important effect for the Redford rate will probably be a reduction of calls between Farmington and Redford from the present rate of 20 cents to 10 cents. The rate has not been determined definitely, being still under consideration.

The announcement which will verify the information obtained by The Enterprise about eight months ago (from a Lansing source which could not be named at the time), which disclosed that for some time both public officials and the telephone company have been working on a zone rate plan for the Detroit metropolitan area, that in use in New York, Chicago, and other cities—in fact, it was reported that Detroit is one of the few among the largest American cities which does not already have the system.

Mileage Basis

The plan provides that rates be placed on a mileage basis, so that rates are paid according to the distance, just as in long distance calls. It would correct the system now in effect where calls from Farmington to Redford are 20 cents, for a distance of perhaps seven miles, whereas one may call, for the same rate, places almost 25 miles away, in the Detroit exchanges far over on the east side.

10 Cent Rate Possible

The new rates would restore the former charge of 10 cents between Farmington and Redford, and satisfy the complaints of a number of Farmington business-men and residents over a period of years. Formerly there was a charge of 20 cents when Redford business-men put on a long distance call a number of years ago and succeeded in getting Redford put into the exchange area. Since that time, calls from there downtown were five cents, the charge from Farmington to Redford was raised to 20 cents, on the basis that Redford thus became a part of the Detroit area.

Protests have been especially bitter in the Clarenceville area, the limit of the Redford exchange being at Inkster road. Business-men in that section of the city have vigorously tried to bring about a change.

Along with the reductions for calls to Redford, the rate to downtown Detroit may be cut from 20 cents to 15 cents. On the other hand, calling to the far east side may be raised, or it may be left at 20 cents. The rate to Pontiac and other nearby towns may also be reduced.

The net result, however, will be a great deal of saving to Farmington telephone users, since a large portion of all calls are to Redford, and only a comparatively few to the far east side exchanges.

When the information was first obtained that the zone system had been worked on since a year ago, it was anticipated that it would be put into effect before it is instituted. However, both the Michigan Public Utilities Commission and the telephone company have indicated that the new rates may go into effect within a few weeks, although the company has 90 days if it wishes to take that time.

POSTOFFICE AND BANK PLAN EXTRA HOURS NEXT WEEK

To provide the utmost service and convenience for people of this area, both the Farmington Post Office and Farmington State Bank are planning extra hours of work for next week.

The Postoffice will be open every evening next week until 8 o'clock, and the bank will be open from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock on Saturday. All patrons are urged to do their banking as early in the week as possible.

Howard C. Knickerbocker, cashier, announces that Farmington State Bank will be open Friday evening from 7 to 8:30 p. m., the regular Saturday evening hours, for the convenience of patrons.

Murray Moore, Miss Marguerite Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moore spent Sunday with Charles and Mrs. Thornton and daughter Nancy Kaye, at Trenton.

Two Streets Named For 1-Way Travel

An important safety measure to protect pupils of Farmington Public Schools is to go into effect shortly, this being the designation of School and Thomas streets, from Grand River Avenue north and west to Warner Avenue, all one-way streets. These two blocks, most used by school children, would be much safer for several reasons, only one way.

Acting on a request to that effect from the Board of Education, the City Commission Monday evening approved the plan and as soon as signs are ready, it will go into effect. A large sign will be placed at Warner and Thomas streets, in back of the Methodist Church, indicating that cars are not to enter.

Masons Install Monday Evening

The biggest event of the year for Farmington Masons, annual installation of new officers, will be held next Monday evening, December 20, in the lodge hall, Charles Diamond will be installed as worshipful master, succeeding Robert Cook, who has been master during the past year. The installation will be public, and a large number of Masons, their families and friends, are expected to attend.

Past Master John H. Thayer, oldest living master of the lodge, will take the leading part in installing the new officers.

The installation will be followed by speeches and serving of refreshments. The starting hour is eight o'clock.

New officers of the lodge, in addition to the master are: Carl Harrison, Senior Warden; Ed Alexander, Junior Warden; Arthur Lamb, Treasurer; James L. Hogle, Secretary; James Smith, Senior Deacon; Harold Hurkett, Junior Deacon; and Ralph Asten, Tyler. A chaplain and two stewards are yet to be appointed by the new master.

WOMAN'S CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Farmington Woman's Club held their Christmas party meeting, Wednesday, at the home of Mrs. Fred L. Cook. The hostess had decorated in the holiday motif, with a Christmas tree centerpiece, and evergreen sprays. Each member answered the roll call with a Christmas verse.

The program was in charge of the hospitality committee, Mrs. Alice McDonald gave the story of "The Fourth Wiseman" and of his search for the Christ, and of how, on the very day of the Crucifixion when he had given away the last of his gifts, he knew that he had ended his search. The story was followed by the singing of Christmas carols.

Santa Claus came to the party in the person of Mrs. Zaida Wilber. Each member gave to Santa the gift she brought for some child. It was voted to send these gifts, along with a sum of money to the Children's Village, and the Otter Lake Village, which cares for the children of former soldiers.

Tea was served at the close of the program.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Ella Irish on January 12. The Arts Department with Mrs. Margaret Miles in charge, will arrange the program.

EISENLORD HOME ROOF IS BADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE

Occupants of the household of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Eisenlord, 32415 Grand River, Farmington, are meeting with fortuitous circumstances. Living in a home, most of the upper part of which has been destroyed by fire in the most unpleasant sort of winter weather. The fire occurred Sunday morning, from about 10 o'clock on. A large canvas has been laid over much of the roof, a large portion of which was burned off. The occupants are confining themselves to the first floor.

A passing motorist detected the flames and stopping in at the house informed the occupants that their home was burning. Effect of the news was such that Mrs. Eisenlord went from Parker Avenue to the house and the informant helped her to the walk.

A daughter-in-law of the Eisenlords, who with her husband happened to be visiting in Farmington, and her sister, Mrs. Jean Kinnard and her sister, Mrs. Lewisburg, organized a bucket brigade to take water to the upper part of the house. Both are nurses, their training standing them in good stead. They also arranged removal of clothing from upstairs.

Traffic on Grand River was halted and detoured around Parker Avenue for some time, while the fire was necessary to lay hose across the road.

LEON JEWETT HOME BURNS

Farmington firemen were called upon to answer the second alarm this week, when the home of Leon Jewett, on Parker Avenue, was found to be in flames, Thursday night.

The fire was thought to have originated from a kerosene stove. Although firemen hurried in response to the call, they were unable to save but few of the household goods, most of the interior of the home being destroyed.

The only person at home at the time of the fire was the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jewett, both of whom are employed in the Detroit Edison Company office and custodian of the large amount of wiring and socket equipment which is required to light the

Report Says City Water Is Safe

Residents of the east end of the city, as well as all others, have been assured by city officials that Farmington's drinking water, concerning which there have been a number of complaints in recent months, is entirely safe to use.

A report on eight samples of water taken in various parts of town following the latest protest has been sent by the county health department with the statement that the water is satisfactory and safe.

Dr. Z. R. Aschenbrenner, city health officer, states that anyone suspecting the water to be unsafe should report it to him. He stated that it is not what it should be, should communicate with his office immediately and tests will be made. He particularly urges that the notification be given immediately in noticing anything objectionable, since reports have been to the effect that the water appears bad at times and then quickly clears up.

Residents of the Lakeway-Valley View-Prospect street district, have reported the water has had a foul odor and has been badly discolored at numerous times during the past few months.

Dr. Aschenbrenner reported that the water was not sufficient.

He emphasizes that as city health officer he is particularly interested in a pure water supply and asks the cooperation of citizens in helping to assure it. Samples are put into sterile jars, the work being done in the laboratory under the health officer's direction.

Residents of Lakeway Drive have reported frequently that the water has the odor of sewers, and is badly discolored, that it quickly stains a white cloth a deep brown the days when it is bad. The discoloring and odor is spasmodic, the water being entirely clear most of the time. When the trouble appears, it often lasts less than a day, but is reported to have gone so far at times as to boil the water before drinking it, and others to have started purchasing spring water rather than drink that from the city mains.

City officials say that the lines on the three streets mentioned should be the clearest in the city, because through the mains on those streets goes the 20,000 gallons used every night by the city. It is reported that occasionally there is rust in the water, but that this is unavoidable at times. It is probable that to avert as much of this as possible, there will be a special flushing out of part of the system.

Concludes Service

ROBERT COOK

City and Township To Discuss Tax

A conference between City and Township officials, to discuss the apparent error by which Farmington City was assessed from 1926 through 1931 for \$41,000 of Covert road taxes which should have been placed on Farmington Township, is to take place Tuesday evening of next week, when City officials plan to attend the regular Township Board meeting and lay the matter before the governing body of the Township.

Particularly noticeable since the news was first published is the evident desire in all quarters that the matter be followed up and the problem solved in the most amicable way. This feeling has been manifested among both officials and private citizens of both governing units.

"That the City Commission will be able to, and will, act on behalf of the taxpayers of the municipality appears quite definitely settled. At the commission meeting Monday evening, the opinion was expressed that the city government has not only the right but the duty of studying the matter to the ultimate conclusion, and carrying it through to a final result."

This is one of several important questions which have developed immediately, and on which tentative answers have been given. The first is that the governing body of the township, which has been paying taxes on the individuals and not by the governing body, and whatever return ultimately might be made would go to those who paid the taxes.

Time is Question

Another important question is whether the statute of limitations will bar recovery, since all the assessments except perhaps those of the last year, 1931, would be regarded as more than six years past. However, preliminary informal opinion is that there are factors that take this out of the class of ordinary debts, which are outlawed after six years.

Still another question is whether taxpayers can recover in view of the fact that the taxes were paid without protest having been made at the time. However, it is believed that this would not be effective to block recovery, either, because the assessments were entirely erroneous, not merely excessive.

Restraint Likely

One state is that the City is almost certain to take, but which will not of itself throw the entire matter into the status of court controversy, is action to prevent further collection on the levy from whatever property owners may not have paid the taxes in question. It is probable that a petition will be filed asking that the county treasurer be restrained from collecting on the taxes, and that the Auditor-General of the State be restrained from selling any property in Farmington City for non-payment of these taxes at the tax sale next May.

It is expected that any taxpayers who may pay these levies from now on will make payment under protest, to protect their interests.

Municipal Judge John J. Schulte attended the Commission meeting and advised the members on legal points connected with the claim. Any further steps will await the outcome of the conference with Township officials Tuesday night.

'Somebody Bring Back The Wire for the Christmas Tree'

Farmington may have a community Christmas tree appropriately decorated again this year—if some unknown person will remember his obligation and bring back the paraphernalia necessary to light the tree.

At the Exchange Club meeting Wednesday it was agreed that there should be a tree decorated this year as in each holiday season for a long time. It was so decided, although there is not the best sort of tree available in the Town Hall park. Only two trees are possibilities, one a very large one that would take hundreds of decorations to make it look properly done, and the other a rather small one. However it was decided to decorate the small tree.

Writing Gone

Then, Earl Grosvenor, manager of the Detroit Edison Company office and custodian of the large amount of wiring and socket equipment which is required to light the

SKATING RINK BEING PREPARED BY THE CITY

A fine skating rink will soon be ready for boys and girls of Farmington, and adults, too, if the proper kind of weather prevails.

The baseball diamond on the high school athletic field is being prepared for skating. Harvey Hough, assistant superintendent of public works of the city, has been putting the place in shape.

Snow and ice have been scraped off the diamond with the city grader, and the snow banked so as to form a circle around the clearing area. This has been followed by spraying the ground with a fire hose each day, the water being put on as fast as it will freeze.

It is expected to cover the ground to a depth of several inches to assure a smooth surface.

When the place will be ready for skating now depends entirely on the elements. The rink will be almost exactly the size of the baseball diamond.

'Billy and Ruth' Toys at Hatton's

The most unique line of toys in America is being shown at Hatton's Farmington Hardware, where the complete line of the famous "Billy and Ruth" toys are stocked this year.

Eight years ago a Philadelphia man conceived the idea of gathering from each of the leading manufacturers of the country their best toys and assembling all together under one selling plan, line, which he named for his children, Billy and Ruth.

Every school child in Farmington has received a "Billy and Ruth" book, containing entry blanks for a big prize contest, for the best letters on which "Billy and Ruth" toys the entrant likes the best and why.

BANK PAYS DIVIDEND

William DeWitt, receiver of Peoples State Bank of Farmington, this week announced another five per cent dividend, checks being mailed Thursday.

Mrs. Manley Newman is entertaining her bridge club this Saturday evening.