

## Commission Must Decide Tax Issue

Farmington City Commission will be called upon to make decision Monday night concerning the problem which involves more public money than any other question in many years, when the issue of improperly paid Covert road taxes for the years 1926 through 1931 again comes up for discussion.

While no decision was reached at the December meeting, when the discovery was first discussed, it is regarded as a foregone conclusion that the Commission at its Monday evening meeting will take action leading toward an attempt to recover taxes paid by city property-owners, which should have been assessed against Farmington Township.

Section among the members of the governing body appears to indicate an almost unanimous opinion that every possible step should be taken on behalf of city property-owners who paid the levies.

Monday Conference

Thus far the only action which has been informal discussion with attorneys as to what the rights of the city taxpayers, and their chances of recovery, might be. It is felt that another conference with legal counsel may be held before Monday evening. However, it appears that any further action must await the Commission's decision, definitely to engage counsel to push the matter, or not to do so. The status of affairs now seems to be that a vast amount of inquiry must be made before court action is instituted, and that unless the Commission is prepared to definitely authorize this undertaking, nothing much further will be of any great help.

While some sentiment was expressed that perhaps the complications and difficulties of recovery ought to cause the Commission to consider just "dropping the whole thing," it is believed that almost every one of the Commissioners is of the opinion that the "drop" is not the answer.

## TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BALL

Preparations have started for the annual President's Birthday Ball in Farmington, to be held the latter part of this month. It is hoped to make this year's event the most successful and to realize the largest amount that has yet been raised in the community for the fund to aid crippled children of the nation.

The Farmington ball will be held on Saturday evening, January 23, in the high school gymnasium. The chairman of the committee in charge, Spencer J. Heene, announces that a fine six-piece orchestra has been engaged, assuring rock music for the evening.

Tickets are now on sale, distribution having begun on Wednesday at the Exchange Club meeting. The public is invited and urged to attend, to swell the fund and at the same time have an evening of enjoyment.

Tickets may be obtained from Mr. Heene or other members of the committee.

A wide public interest in the event is hoped for by those in charge, in order that Farmington may make a genuine contribution to the cause which has been brought to the attention of the nation in recent years through the annual parties held on or near President Roosevelt's birthday anniversary, January 30.

## Holy Name Society To Elect Officers

Members of the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Sorrows Church will hold election of officers next Monday evening, January 10, at the rectory.

The Users' Club has chosen its 1938 officers, the meeting having been held Monday. Joseph E. Wray, president of the club, other officers being Forrest Green, vice-president; King LeMay, secretary; Maurice Fitzgerald, treasurer.

## Speaks on Beet Sugar

Glenn Larkey of Lansing spoke to the Exchange Club Wednesday noon on the sugar beet industry of Michigan, with which he is connected. He was introduced by Judge John J. Schulte.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schreiber and son Richard have returned from Grand Rapids where they visited with Mrs. Schreiber's father and sister, Edward Jewell and Miss Eleanor Jewell.

## 'Three Wise Men' Appear to Be Sitting on a Very Hot Spot

Three Farmington men appear at this moment to be seated upon a very hot spot. They may not realize it before this time, but as the day of the big debate grows nearer, their position may become more generally apparent.

The cause of what may be a difficult dilemma for them is the approaching debate between teams of Farmington Exchange Club and the Epworth League of the Methodist Church. The three men referred to are not in the debate, although they had a fine chance to be—and maybe they're through they will have made up their minds that declining that invitation was a serious mistake.

The three are Judge John J. Schulte, Glenn H. Leland and Howard Otis. The debate was suggested by the Epworth League. Arthur Power, then president of the Exchange Club, thought it behooved the club, with the recommendation that the challenge be accepted. He further suggested that, since former exercises are frequently associated with the practice of law, three members of the club—two in the law ought to make a good representation for Exchange. Then he mentioned Messrs. Leland, Otis and Schulte.

## Pioneer of This Section Passes

Orren S. Hulet of Novi, one of Oakland County's pioneers, died at the home of his son, John B. Hulet of South Lyon, early Sunday morning, January 2, 1938, at the age of 87 years. Born at Milford, in 1850, the son of Josiah H. and Susan Jane Carl Hulet, he was the youngest of six children of John Bassett, also of Novi Township, who died in 1924. In 1883, Mr. Hulet became associated with D. M. Ferry and Co., of Detroit and made his home in that city until his retirement in 1917. Since that time he had lived in the old family home at Novi, which he built about 1875.

Mr. Hulet was a life-long Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Horace Greeley and not seeing a candidate of his choice elected until the election of Grover Cleveland as President in 1884.

A member of Zion Lodge, F. and A. M. from early manhood, he was also a member of the Grand Lodge of good staiding, made a Life Member. He was a member of the Walled Lake Homecoming Association.

Mr. Hulet is survived by four children: Mrs. Helen Hulet Searle of New York, Max Hulet of Farmington, Gerald Hulet of Detroit, and John B. Hulet of South Lyon. He left four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were held at the home in Novi at 2 p. m. Tuesday, followed by interment at the Rural Hill Mausoleum at Northville.

## SQUADS CHOSEN BY ALUMNI AND FACULTY

All is in readiness for one of the big basketball games of the year in Farmington, between alumni of the high school and members of the school faculty. The game will be played next Tuesday evening, January 11, in the high school gym. It is planned in order to help raise funds for the Boy Scouts, Troop 45 of Farmington.

Lineups are announced, with 10 men named for each squad. The faculty team found it necessary to call upon a Clarenceville, teacher, Marvin Middlestead, who is listed as a center, in order to fill out their squad.

Curt Hall is coach of the alumni team and Coach Shoemaker has been working with the faculty men in preparation for the contest. Arrangements have been made for the event by Carl Smith.

Tickets are now on sale, may be obtained from Howard Otis, president of the Exchange Club. A dance will follow the game.

Lineups for the game are as follows:

## FACULTY

- Shoemaker, F.
- Stewart, F.
- Burns
- McKay
- Thompson, G.
- Ewart, G.
- Rohrer, G.
- Baker
- Arnett
- Middlestead, C.

## ALUMNI

- Harley Spaffler, F.
- Elmer Catherman, F.
- Don Larson, G.
- Chuck Lee, G.
- Owen Lancaster, C.
- Tony Himmelspach
- Bob Davis
- Harvey Hamilton
- Bill Calvey
- Howard Catherman

## Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley were New Year's eve guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carmel Benton of Northville.

## One of Three Old Time Stores Burned

One of the three old-time wooden store buildings on the Erie street side of Grand River, that have for years had repeated escapes from destruction by fire, (escapes that mystified the community because no one could understand the cause) was destroyed last night. The fire started in any of the buildings could be quenched—one of them now seems definitely doomed. Following a blaze which burned the back part of the roof in the store that was occupied by Hagedorn's Electric Shop, it appears that the structure will not be worth repairing.

Most of the back part of the roof of the old wooden building was burned and the rear walls gone. Within the past few days the ceiling in the store has started to sag, and seems likely to fall in.

Reports indicate that insurance coverage for the building amounts to only \$1,000, which is believed to be insufficient to put it in condition for use again even though that should be contemplated.

The structure is the farthest west of the three, all substantially alike, which have stood for more than 20 years. The buildings resemble those in pictures of pioneer western towns.

Numerous fires have started in one or the other of the buildings, and after each there has been astonishment that the firemen were able to prevent destruction. But they always did.

## Water Damage

The fire was discovered Friday evening, it started around the chimney, and quickly burned through a large section of the old dry wood. While much of the stock was taken out, a quantity of Mr. Hedberg's merchandise was damaged by water. He estimates his loss at about \$200.

Mr. Hedberg has moved to a new location in the Dickerson Hardware.

Owner of the building where the fire occurred is Mrs. Martha Schroeder. For many years she and her husband, now deceased, had operated a market there, known as Pioneer Market.

## HAND SET PHONE CHARGE IS TERMINATED

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has accepted an order issued at the close of the year by the Michigan Public Utilities Commission eliminating the charge of 15 cents per month for the hand set telephone and a charge of ten cents a month in certain rural areas for the desk type telephone.

According to a statement by George M. Welch, president of the Company, the order also reduces the charge for changing the type of instrument at the time of installing residential service, if an instrument is already in place, and reaffirms the charges in the company's filed tariffs of rates in all other instrument changes.

Mr. Welch's statement follows: "This is not a good time for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company to face a reduction in its revenues. With the sharply increased cost of operation during 1937 when this company experienced in common with other concerns, the revenue was no more than was required. With a continuation of present business conditions even for only the early part of the year, it is certain that our net income for 1938 will be less.

"When the handset was offered to customers of the company on an optional basis in 1927, a charge of 15 cents per month was made for it because of its greater cost and to prevent the wasteful junking of hundreds of thousands of useful instruments. The rate was reduced to 10 cents in March, 1928 and in June, 1934, it was limited to a charge for 18 months. In July, 1935, the rate was reduced to 15 cents per month for 18 months.

"We have had in mind that the charge would be eliminated entirely when the old sets remaining in use should reach such a level as to permit their replacement without too great waste. While in my judgment the rate should be reduced at this point, and although the elimination of the charge will have a substantial effect on the company's revenue, we are accepting the order because of our desire to cooperate with the public in determining a distribution of charges for telephone service that will be most acceptable to our customers."

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## What They Face

If, with this thought uppermost in mind, they determine that the Exchange Club debaters were best, they face the smug comment that they themselves are members of the organization. And although members of the Epworth League and other sportsmanly organizations, well, just suppose the public generally, not members of either organization, shrugged their shoulders and "kidded" them; here, one team was the Exchange Club and the other was the Leaguers, and the decision, why not give the boys and girls a chance?"

Just Suppose—

But now let us suppose that the Epworth League is clearly the superior team. The judges will then determine that the Leaguers were best, and the verdict (in fact, the more one thinks about it, the more one is inclined to believe) that the three judges may before it is all over be praying that the Leaguers will be so superior that judging would not even be necessary! But in this instance, don't the judges face the unexpressed accusation, perhaps, from their fellow members, that regardless of the merits of either side they would have had nerve enough to give it to their own club members anyway, however superior the Exchange team was?

So much for those possibilities. Now let us suppose that while the three men are scrupulously fair and that they would not knowingly away "one jot or tittle" to one side or the other regardless of what any Exchange Leaguer, or anyone else thought about it—but just suppose that they are only human beings after all, and that despite their most rigid efforts to rule out any sort of bias or regard for the merits of either side, they are not realizing it, they have come to acquire a subconscious feeling of their own queer position. And maybe despite their not knowing it themselves, it cannot but have its effect on their judgment. At times they give their decision. It does get in its work. If, being only human, they throw a little weight to the Epworth League because

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## Farmington Comments on Northville Morals Battle

What is Farmington's reaction to the vigorous battle of opinions which has flared up in the neighboring town of Northville, as a result of remarks on a modern moral standard by a Northville minister recently? The Northville cleric's talk before the Rotary Club stirred up a veritable hornet's nest that has attracted wide attention beyond the borders of Northville.

The Enterprise sent to Farmington ministers a copy of an article which appeared in The Detroit Free Press Sunday, reviewing the controversy. Comment of the Farmington pastors was invited. The Free Press article was as follows:

NORTHVILLE, Jan. 1—Is church attendance a fair gauge of the moral standards of a town? The question is just one of several which have involved Northville in as heated a controversy as it has known in years.

The Rev. Thomas W. Smith, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, started it all in a talk before the Rotary Club several weeks ago when he took off his gloves in dealing with failure of the town's members to attend church.

"If we served breakfast at 11 o'clock and allowed smoking during the service, we'd have more men," he observed caustically.

"If Northville had 10,000 men on men for its church activities we would have to close the doors. On a recent Sunday there were 600 persons in attendance at the five churches from a possible 4,000 or 5,000."

## Next Week

The Enterprise has received from Rev. Gilbert J. Miles of Farmington Parish, Church, an interesting commentary on the Northville morals controversy. Rev. Miles presents a somewhat different viewpoint than the other ministers whose comments have been published. It gives it added interest. The commentary was received too late to include in this issue, but will appear in next week's Enterprise.

## One Man in 12 Attends Church

Richard T. Baldwin, newspaper editor some years ago, the troubled waters with an editorial. He wrote:

"Personally, I think Dr. Smith is right, but do not believe that he has any worse than any other small town minister."

"Though many people are indifferent to the churches, that does not necessarily mean they are among the best of their kind. Some of these non-attenders are in different parts of the country, where they are being urged by Detroit authorities on charges of lawbreaking there."

Morris will face examination next Wednesday at Pontiac on charges of robbery arrest. He was taken from Detroit to Pontiac by Deputy DeVriendt, and arraigned Monday before Judge Milqu Cooney. He stood mute and bail of \$5,000, which he was unable to furnish.

## BURTON HOLMES LECTURE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A new Africa, far different from that pictured by the explorer; or big game hunter, will be presented this afternoon and evening at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Woodward at Kirby, next Sunday afternoon, January 9, at 3:30 by the veteran travel lecturer, Burton Holmes. The subject is "A Motor Trip Through Brightest South Africa."

Originally scheduled for Sunday evening, this novel motion picture lecture has been moved to the afternoon hours so that the season ticket holders of the World Adventure Series might enjoy it. This will be the only lecture Mr. Holmes will deliver Sunday.

At 8:30 Sunday evening, January 16, Dr. Victor G. Heiser, author of "An American Doctor's Odyssey" and famous internationally as "the private physician to the world," will speak at the Detroit Institute of Arts on "An American Doctor's Odyssey." He will review his adventures throughout the world studying and helping to prevent dread diseases such as cholera, smallpox, beri beri, leprosy, etc.

## STOCKHOLDERS OF BANK TO MEET TUESDAY

Stockholders of Farmington State Bank will meet next Tuesday afternoon, January 11, at three o'clock, for an annual stockholders' meeting. At that time reports of the bank's progress and condition will be made.

The meeting will be held in the community room of the bank. Proxy blanks have been sent out and it is urged that all stockholders who can attend send in their proxies as soon as possible.

Election of directors and officers will also be held at the annual meeting.

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## Farmington Again End of Holdup Trail

Farmington again is the nucleus of holdup news. The community's reputation in the past few years of being the place where numerous Detroit bandits have reached the end of their trail, has been further enhanced by the second capture within a month of gangs each numbering four, who had been preying upon business in the metropolitan area.

The latest band to be captured, comprising four youths who are 18, 19, and 26 years old, await police action in jail at Detroit. As in the holdup a month ago, it was within an hour after their visit to Farmington that they were in the hands of Detroit police.

The four youths went up the grocery store of Aner Brothers, Grand River near Middle Belt Road, last Thursday evening—the second time that the proprietors have had the experience. They robbed the proprietors of a cash register, Dean Smith of Farmington Township, and stole four guns from the rear of the store. All of the guns were recovered.

"Police said that the four admitted having held up nine Smith chain grocery stores since Christmas week, netting a total of about \$300. Two other robberies preceded that at the Aner store the same evening.

"By coincidence, Farmington Township man, Guy Winter, was at the very spot in Detroit where occurred the incident which led to the youthful gang's capture. After the holdup, they drove to West Fort street in Detroit to hide the stolen guns. As they went into an alley near the large State liquor warehouse, they were seen by a night watchman, who noted the guns. He notified police. They met them at West Fort street and called on Deputy DeVriendt, who arrived at the Aner store on call within two minutes after the holdup.

A scout car happened to be in the vicinity when the watchman's call came over the radio. The police did not suspect the youths in the car, however, until the latter, seeing the scout car and becoming fearful, started to speed. This attracted the attention of the police and they gave chase. The youths ran their machine, a large new Buick, which they had stolen, up to 80 and 85 miles an hour. On National avenue they skidded on ice and hit a pole. One was seriously injured.

Three were captured by the police in the scout car. A fourth went home. When police found the guns in the alley, wrapped in an overcoat, they discovered in one of the pockets and among the Leaguers' license, issued to Donald Jones, 18, whom police quickly picked up at his home, and who was later identified as the leader of the gang by Aner.

The youths are Harold D. Dixon, 17, Phil Saab, 16, and James Somerset, 16. Saab is in Delray Hospital, seriously hurt.

According to the report, Jones entered the store first, 10 minutes before the holdup, saying he "wanted to buy something but didn't know what," he asked if he could change a \$10 bill. James Aner went to the rear of the store, but returned and said he could not make the change. The "customer" went out. William Aner said later that he was suspicious of him, "but not enough," a few minutes later Jones returned with three others, one carrying a rifle and others small arms. The Aner brothers and Smith were forced to put their hands on the counter and keep them there. Then Jones, Aner said, went directly to the back where James Aner hid the guns for a few minutes before he could make change, and took a large sum of money. Coming to the front again, he emptied the cash register. Then William Aner was asked if he had money, and he said he had about \$200 in his wallet, he was asked if it was his own, and upon answering that it was, he was told to "keep it."

Meanwhile Aner lectured the youth who kept him covered, asking him whether he "had to do that to live," and Aner said, the youth hung his head. Meanwhile the leader had asked if there were guns in the store, and when told there were, went to the rear and brought them out. On the way out one of them hesitated near the door, said he wanted some potato chips, and when William Aner told him to help himself, he came back and took a sack.

Aner said later that after he identified the incident concerning the two dollars, they started to leave, and he said "a pretty good sport." He said Jones seemed "little concerned about the charge against him."

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The fire was discovered Friday evening, it started around the chimney, and quickly burned through a large section of the old dry wood. While much of the stock was taken out, a quantity of Mr. Hedberg's merchandise was damaged by water. He estimates his loss at about \$200.

Mr. Hedberg has moved to a new location in the Dickerson Hardware.

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