

The Farmington Enterprise

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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1939

Township To Vote On Town Hall

At the township's spring election, April 3, voters will be allowed to decide whether the Township should raise \$15,000 as its share of a \$35,000 township hall and they will select a location for the six proposed sites, it was decided at the meeting of the Township board Tuesday night.

The board defeated a motion providing for the immediate payment of \$1,000 to architects Lyndon and Smith for the completion of the plans for the building. The motion was made so that WPA officials in Washington could set the plans and possibly give approval to a \$17,000 grant in time for work to begin April 1.

It was agreed it would be safer to await the voters' approval of the plan, which would cost as much as \$1,000 on it, possibly later to have the idea turned down at the polls.

Five of the proposed sites, all of which are in the eastern part of the Township, were submitted without recommendation to the board by a committee appointed a month ago and headed by Francis Haggard. They are: a site on the east side of the 100-foot west of Middlebelt road; the southeast corner of Ten Mile road and Middlebelt road; any two acres of the Fred Staman property facing Orchard Lake road between Ten and Eleven Mile roads; any two acres north of the Fred Staman property also facing Orchard Lake road between Ten and Eleven Mile roads; and the southeast corner of Eleven Mile road and Orchard Lake road.

Application for the WPA grant was made last June and has passed through the Flint and Lansing offices and is now in Washington. Before it can receive final approval, more definite plans must be sent to Washington. It would take at least three or four months, and the cost, \$1,000, is 60 per cent of the architect's fee.

Of the more than 50 persons who packed the Village Store on Grand River north of Eight Mile road, the majority indicated by raised hands that they favored the payment of the \$1,000 fee. At once as a means of hastening approval and hence the commencement of the project, Supervisor Arthur Coe declared he could not accept their stand as representative of the sentiment of all the voters, so with board members Lorenza Cox, Harry McCracken and Ernest Blanchard he voted against the motion. The second motion proposing to put the idea on the agenda for the next meeting was passed unanimously.

A report was read to the board by civil engineer Bruce Buchanan of Pontiac on the feasibility of financing a water system by letting liquidating revenue bonds issued upon resolution of the Township board as a lien upon the revenue provided by the water system.

Buchanan made a survey of various areas in the eastern end of the Township and found that in section 26, Inkeeper road to Middlebelt road north of the Eight Mile road it would be feasible to set up such a system providing at least 320 residents, there would be willing to pay a minimum water bill of \$5 a quarter.

This charge would include bringing the water to the house and installing a meter. Of the bill, \$3.50 would be to retire the bonds and \$2.50 would pay for 1,500 cubic feet of water. The latter figure is slightly less than the suburban rate charged by the Detroit water board, he said.

At the end of 23 years, providing at least 100 new customers were added each year, the bonds would be retired and the Township would begin making money on the system, he said.

In the area mentioned, 65,000 gallons and 14 private construction companies did the job it would take about six months and cost \$137,000.

However, Buchanan's figure for profit for WPA assistance in the form of a \$250,000 grant for labor. Total cost of the project under this arrangement: \$245,000; with the Township's share of \$35,000 being raised by a \$100,000 bond issue which would be sold at a discount.

What remains to be done, as Harry Christina pointed out, is to see if at least 200 new customers in this area, would be willing to pay at least \$4 a quarter for water. Further business Tuesday night was the selection of election boards for the two precincts. Precinct one:

Social Grace And Dancing Being Taught Here In School

To the tune of "The Irish Washerwoman," "Fishes and Nips" and "The Arkansas Traveler," young Farmington is being taught social grace through the enjoyable medium of dancing. Classes are held in the high school gymnasium every Wednesday. Instructors and an accompanist being provided by Henry Ford.

Several hundred students from seventh graders up to seniors attend the classes, which begin at 2:30 a. m. Boys and girls are about evenly divided, so pairing off is easily accomplished. Students are excused from their other classes for ten to fifteen minutes. Each group attends at a different hour each week, so that the same school subject is missed only once approximately every eight weeks. Superintendent R. C. Burns explained.

It was more than five years ago

To File Briefs In Road Tax Suit

Judge Frank L. Doty, who is hearing the tax suit between the City and the Township, has been confined to St. Joseph's Mercy hospital with a severe cold. He will be unable to hear the case argued orally in Circuit Court. It has been arranged for the two parties of the suit to present their briefs in written form for the Judge's consideration.

John J. Schulte and Earl Phillips, who represent the City, were required to submit their briefs Thursday. Within five days after that the Township's attorney, Glenn Gillespie must answer in the form of a written brief.

It was hoped that the trial could be consummated in a few days with the oral argument, but it will take longer with the argument being written. Lawyers expect the case to be concluded in the second or third week of March.

Oral argument was to have taken place Saturday, but Mr. Gillespie was out of town. It was postponed to Feb. 27, but because of Judge Doty's illness it was decided to conclude with written briefs.

Local Notary Offers Services To WPA

In response to an appeal made by WPA Administrator Abner E. Learned in the press last week, H. Stephens, of Farmington, a notary public, volunteered his services without charge to those who cannot afford to pay for notarizing affidavits of citizenship required by all WPA workers before March 5th.

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A&P Commemorates 40 Years Of Service

This week is Founder's Week at the A&P and the occasion is being fully observed, says manager Mark Ferriter, by offering many special services to commemorate 40 years of service.

Ernest Blanchard, Jay Bottom, Will Morris, Lettie MacIntyre, Susie Seely, and Ina Sturman. Because Walter Headrick, just elected chairman of the second precinct board, is a candidate, he was replaced by Ward Eagle. Others are: Louise Brown, F. Billings, Isabelle Menke, Mitchell Durham and Roy Shaw. The meeting was adjourned at 11 p. m.

PWA School Contracts To Be Let

Bids for the general construction contract, the electrical contract and the heating and ventilating contract of the new PWA school building on Thomas street will be received until 3:30 p. m. a week from Monday afternoon. The three contracts will be bid for separately.

Inactive since Jan. 25, when the foundation was completed, the project will probably not be resumed until the summer weather comes. The contracts are let out, Superintendent R. C. Burns says, because it will be possible to work faster and more inexpensively when the warmer weather comes.

Such a delay will be possible, because the contractors have 160 days from March 6, or until August 13, to complete their work. If the general construction work were begun March 6, it would probably be necessary to warm the concrete, which is an added expense not so likely to be present several weeks after, Mr. Burns explained.

Work began on the school Dec. 29, for it was necessary to be under way before the new year in order to qualify for the \$36,818 PWA grant. Since then, completed plans and blueprints have been approved by the board of education and the PWA.

Besides advertising for bids on the three contracts, the board of education is advertising the refunding of the 1935 refunding bonds series A and B. All such bonds and certificates of indebtedness not presented by April 1 will cease to bear interest after this date.

These two issues were replaced Feb. 21 by another issue at a lower rate (2 and three quarters per cent) and for a shorter term. They will be replaced by 30 year terms, the new ones of 20 year terms staggered.

EXCHANGE CLUB AND LEGION - PRESENT FLAGS

More than 25 of troop 45's Boy Scouts attended a supper Wednesday night given by the Exchange Club and the Legion. A presentation of a troop flag by the club and an American flag by the Groves-Walker Post of the American Legion.

Assembling in formation, the Scouts received the troop flag from Exchangee Joseph Himmelsbach and the stars and stripes from Legionaire Al Smith. After the presentation, Scout leader Robert Brown of Detroit entertained the group at a banquet. The Legion's Charles Elkin and Smith with an hour of colored motion pictures he has taken in several vacations of travel in northwestern United States and Canada.

Orders Being Received By State For Trees

Orders are already being received by the forestry division of the department of conservation for trees to be planted in the spring. Filling these orders will be planting on privately owned land, is a use of the state's nursery facilities intended to encourage private reforestation and is complementary to the free distribution of stock for publicly owned areas under state administration or for school and community reforestation projects. The department is authorizing the planting of stock to individuals for planting on private land on the condition that the trees be held until large enough to produce timber products.

The regulations specifically state that they are to be used for reforestation purposes only. Distribution of stock by the department for other ornamental plantings or Christmas tree production is prohibited. No order is accepted for less than 500 trees and for not less than 50 of any one class.

Restaurnt Is Robbed Of Money And Merchandise

Early Monday morning someone broke into the restaurant at Grand River and Orchard Lake road and stole money from a cigar machine and took merchandise valued at less than \$50. Entrance was gained into the place, which is called Sally's Check Shack, by means of a front window, which was broken.

Arrest Escaped Prisoner Hiding On Farm Near Novi

Roosevelt Roberts, 36-year old, escaped inmate of a North Carolina penitentiary, who was caught Monday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Joseph DeVriendt and Elmo McKinley on a farm near Novi, will be returned to prison for at least the remaining 15 years of the 20 to 30 year sentence he was serving for the alleged murder of Bluff with a shotgun.

Roberts was traced to Novi by police who intercepted letters he had written to a 19-year old girl in Walnut Cove, N. C. to whom he was going to be married early this week. Local officers were given the information that Roberts received his mail through the Novi postoffice under the alias of F. J. Davis.

Standing behind an ice-box in the general store, which is also Novi's post office, Deputy DeVriendt spent Monday morning waiting for "F. N. Davis" to pick up a telegram sent to him by his would-be bride in Walnut Cove. In the middle of the afternoon a boy came in for "Davis's" mail. DeVriendt and McKinley followed him to the Frank Oliver farm east of Meadowbrook on the Ten Mile road.

Working in the barn they found Roosevelt Roberts. He was handcuffed without a struggle and taken to the Oakland County Jail in Pontiac. He will waive extradition to North Carolina, and awaits the arrival of North Carolina police.

Five and a half years ago Roberts was convicted of the second degree murder of his wife. He mistook her for a chicken thief and shot her dead with his shot gun before he realized his mistake, he told police.

"The incident of that murder charge," he protested to sheriff's officers, "I did five years and was months of a sentence that wasn't right. The climate was awful and I couldn't stand it. That was one of the big reasons why I walked away."

Last June Roberts walked away from the Caledonia Farm of the Calhoun Penitentiary in North Carolina. He was in Detroit a while and beginning last August he worked four months at James Lapham's farm on Hagerty highway. In November he went to work for Frank Oliver, at whose farm he was arrested.

Oliver told police he did not know Roberts was an escaped prisoner, but he did know he had a revolver in his suitcase. Police also found a pair of brass knuckles among his belongings. Roberts was unknown in Novi, either by the name of Roberts or Davis. He always sent someone into town for his mail.

Whether Roosevelt Roberts' Walnut Cove sweetheart knows of his whereabouts could not be told by Deputy DeVriendt Thursday morning.

Kelly Cautions Drivers On Attaching New Plates

Harry F. Kelly, Secretary of State, cautions motorists when attaching their new license plates. He was going but was watching some WPA workers, is now out on \$4500 bond. He awaits trial Monday in Circuit Court in Pontiac on the charge of negligent homicide. He was charged with the death of a woman, Mrs. Schulte, when he was arrested the same day as the accident.

VICKI BAUM WILL APPEAR FOR TOWN HALL

Vicki Baum, glamorous Viennese novelist whose best-seller "Grand Hotel" brought her world fame overnight, will speak before the Detroit Town Hall on Wednesday morning, March 1, at 11 o'clock. Out of her personal philosophy gained from her own rich life and her studies of other people she will give her answer to the question, "Why Be Afraid?"

In writing her novels Vicki Baum has made it a point to live in the atmosphere she was depicting. While writing "Grand Hotel" she worked for six weeks as chambermaid in a leading Berlin hotel. She lived in Bali for months to write "Tales of Bali" (1937).

Suzanne Labadie Improves at Home

Suzanne Labadie, six years old, who was struck by an automobile driven by M. Russell Bachelor of Eastland, Mich., on Monday afternoon, was taken home from the Redford Receiving Hospital Wednesday afternoon, and is reported by her mother, Mrs. Frank Labadie, to be doing better.

The five-year old Frances Labadie, struck at the same time as she and her sister waited to cross Grand River at School street on Tuesday night, was in the morning being discharged after being admitted to the hospital and was buried Saturday from Our Lady of Sorrows' Church in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Although Suzanne is resting comfortably, and is able to read in bed, she is occasionally in pain and will have to undergo an operation before she can recover from her injuries. According to Mrs. Labadie, Suzanne will be kept at home until she has convalesced sufficiently to be operated upon. She is suffering from an injured chest and internal injuries. She is being treated in the Redford Receiving Hospital.

Eighteen-year-old Bachelor, who witnesses say struck the children because he was not looking when he was watching some WPA workers, is now out on \$4500 bond. He awaits trial Monday in Circuit Court in Pontiac on the charge of negligent homicide. He was charged with the death of a woman, Mrs. Schulte, when he was arrested the same day as the accident.

Following this presentation, Robert Brown of Detroit entertained the group at a banquet. The Legion's Charles Elkin and Smith with an hour of colored motion pictures he has taken in several vacations of travel in northwestern United States and Canada.

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SPECIAL MEETING OF O.E.S.

A special meeting of Farmington Chapter No. 239, O.E.S., will be held next Tuesday evening, February 28, at 8 o'clock. Initiation ceremonies will be held, and a special musical program will be given. Lunch will be served at the close of the meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Heeny Asks For Rating Of Teachers

"Teachers in the Farmington school system have no way of knowing whether or not they are doing satisfactory work until they have been fired or demoted, and they deserve more security than this," president of the board of education Spencer J. Heeny says in a statement issued to the Enterprise.

At a special meeting of the board a week ago Monday, Mr. Heeny proposed that a merit system be adopted providing for an occasional rating of the teachers' efficiency by the principals in cooperation with the superintendent.

The board did not adopt Mr. Heeny's suggestion, refusing to provide for the cooperation of the principals with the superintendent in the rating of the teachers. Following the discussion on this motion, the board demoted Robert Stewart, principal of the grade schools, without citing any recommendations from the superintendent.

Heeny's statement continues, "The board could have access to information about the teachers if it would only institute itself in getting it. If the superintendent and the principals were consulted regarding the merits of the teachers, it would take much of the politics out of hiring and firing teachers. It would also provide security for the teachers, who they stood, and what, if anything, was the matter with them."

"Under the present arrangement, favoritism and imaginary dislikes are able to effect dismissal or demotion of a teacher or principal, as they did in the case of Mr. Stewart, against whom no valid charges were made. A recommendation was received from the superintendent. No testimony was taken or any effort made to appraise him through official methods. There were made no recommendations and dismissed on unsubstantiated charges. All of this is a sad mistake, I believe, and can be corrected only through the adoption of some system of evaluating teachers and principals."

"Such a system is used in Detroit and employs such criteria as, control over method, social intelligence, professional leadership, adaptability, executive ability, and initiative in extra-curricular activities and vitality. I believe the teachers in the Farmington schools are behind me 100 per cent in advocating some form of rating system like that. I believe the board should like to say they may come before in any time they wish without fear of discrimination as a result. Spencer J. Heeny."

WOMAN'S CLUB DESSERT BRIDGE TO BE MARCH 1

Members of the Farmington Woman's Club will meet on Wednesday, March 1 at one o'clock for a dessert bridge at the home of Mrs. Emory Hutton. Prizes will be awarded for each table. Miss Merhab Andrews, assisted by Mrs. George M. Dagnall form the general committee, while Mrs. Irene Comstock, assisted by Mrs. Alice MacDonald and Mrs. Ruth Miles will be in charge of refreshments. Reservations for this meeting are to be made with Mrs. Josephine McGee.

Attention is also called to the meeting of the Oakland County Federation to be held on March 3. The afternoon speaker will be Mrs. Faye of Russell Station, W.R. and her topic will be "Homemaking by Radio." Miss Rose Lavery will introduce the speaker.

Program committee would like to ask members to furnish their own card tables, cards, napkins and silver. Call Mrs. Paul Schreiber at 225 for the bridge on March 1.

Two Are Injured On Orchard Lake Rd.

Driving south on Orchard Lake Road just north of the Twelve Mile road at 4:30 p. m. Monday, Mary Powlowitch lost control of her car and crashed into a telephone pole. Miss Powlowitch and a passenger, James Harris, were taken to Redford Receiving Hospital suffering from lacerations, abrasions and shock. The car was demolished.

Harris, who is from Grand Rapids, was released from the hospital Sunday, and Miss Powlowitch, who is from Hamtramck, was released Tuesday.

The U. S. S. Lexington is over 100 feet longer than the former battleship building in New York City is tall.