

Issues, Answers to Township Salary Dispute

By ALLEN ROSENFELD
 On Nov. 2, 1964, the evening before the last national, state and local elections, the Farmington Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to give the Administration of the Township — consisting of the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer — a pay increase.

The administration and two of the Board members — all of them Republicans were up for election on the following day.

The question of the pay raises became an 11th hour election

issue. The Democratic candidates charged that the raises were excessively large; that they had been proposed and passed at the last minute to lessen their political impact.

The Republicans lost the election. But the issue of the pay raises remained alive.

A petition demanding that the raises be put to a vote of the people was submitted to the Township Clerk's Office on Dec. 1, containing 1624 valid signatures. As a result, the salaries of Supervisor Curt Hall, Clerk

Floyd Cairns, and Treasurer Elise Avery will be voted on Feb. 15.

Opposition to the raises is apparently no longer merely partisan. But the arguments against the raises remain substantially the same as those that the Democrats raised on Nov. 3.

There is to begin with, the matter of timing. Dr. Martin Chutkan, a defeated Democratic candidate for a seat on the Board of Trustees in the November election, says that "either the Township govern-

ment is fantastically inefficient, and simply neglected to consider the matter before Oct. 25, in which case they don't deserve a pay raise; or it was their intention right along to prevent the public from knowing what their intentions were."

"The contention raised by Township Attorney Joseph Brennan that no action could be taken before Oct. 26, is incredible nonsense, apparently intended to obscure the issues," Hattie Regeer, perhaps the leading force behind the petition drive, raised a specific question to the reporter.

"Why wasn't this matter mentioned at the budget hearing in March and money allocated for it then?"

To this question, Earl Oppenhaus — one of the Board members who voted the raises — answered, "That budget hearing was for the fiscal year April 1, 1964 to March 31, 1965. The pay raises which we voted are not to take effect until the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1965."

With respect to Oppenhaus's statement, it should be noted that, according to state law, a Board cannot raise the pay of an administrator that is in office.

"This explains the clause in the law that salaries must be fixed at the last board meeting before an election. (If they are not fixed at that time, the act carries over into the next administration.)"

The Township administration received its last pay raise four years ago, at the last Board meeting prior to the 1960 election. There was an opportunity to raise them again two years ago, at the last Board meeting prior to the 1962 election. But the proposal, as far as Board member Arthur Bassette can recall, was not even brought up.

Harris Berger asks the question: "When did the Trustees first consider raising the salaries?" Joseph Brennan speaking as counsel for the Board says the question is "completely irrelevant," since Oakland County Circuit Judge Philip Pratt recently approved the legality of the raises. But the question is relevant to the issue of whether the raises were delayed till the last minute for political reasons.

Research, by this writer, indicates the following chronological steps led to the pay raises:

Arthur Bassette and Thomas Duke, the two Trustees with the longest time on the Board, have

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FARMINGTON'S unofficial open house day took place on Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Days. A typical gathering was that which took place at the Don Greens on Woodland Drive, Franklin. From left are Gerst Weaver, Mary Helen Woody, Norm Woody and moved Don Green. The Greens have just moved into their new tri-level home. They moved here from Pennsylvania where General Motors transferred Don back to the home office.

Twelve Candidates Seek Seat In Special State Senate Race

Twelve candidates have entered the race for the 14th District State Senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator-elect Paul M. Chandler last month.

Six Democrats and six Republicans had filed for a spot on the ballot in the special Feb. 15 primary by the 4 p.m. deadline last Monday. Winners in each party primary will face each other at a final election scheduled for Monday, April 5.

Seeking the Republican nomination are:

- Farrell Roberts, 2488 Lafayette Drive, Pontiac, a former State Senator.
- George T. Ames, 41008 Morningstar, Novi.
- John H. Burke, 3181 St. Ann Circle, a Farmington attorney and law partner of George T. Ames.
- Edward McNamara, 1278 Dolores, Livonia, a Livonia City Councilman.
- James McCarthy, 8559 Louisiana, Livonia, a supervisor for Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

- Paul Livingston of West Loomis, a Farmington realtor.
- Thomas J. McHugh, 1485 Benvenue, Mayor pro-tem of the city of Sylvania.
- Paul A. Kern of Orchard Lake, a part-time radio broadcaster.
- George T. Ames, 41008 Morningstar, Novi.
- On the Democratic side of the ballot will be:
 - James McCarthy, 8559 Louisiana, Livonia, a supervisor for Michigan Bell Telephone Co.
 - Edward McNamara, 1278 Dolores, Livonia, a Livonia City Councilman.
 - James McCarthy, 8559 Louisiana, Livonia, a supervisor for Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

- Paul Livingston of West Loomis, a Farmington realtor.
- Leo Meagher of Farmington Township, a real estate executive and former candidate for State Senate; and
- Elsie Gilmore, 30415 Puritan, Livonia, former chairman of the Wayne County Democratic Committee.

The election will pit several political veterans and former candidates against each other. Three of the 12—two Republicans and one Democrat—were unsuccessful candidates last fall when Chandler, a former State Representative and Publisher of The Observer Newspapers was elected to the Senate seat. Chandler was one of

only two GOP candidates to win election to the Senate from a Wayne County district.

McCarthy, one of the Democrats, was Chandler's opponent in the Nov. 3 final election. Both Kern and Prescott were GOP primary candidates, and Kern later ran a "citywide" candidacy in the final election. McNamara, now serving his second term on the City Council in Livonia, was U. S. Congressman Billie Farnum's campaign manager in Livonia during the November campaign in which Farnum defeated Richard Kuhn for the new 19th District Congressional seat. John Burke, another Democratic candidate, was an opponent of Farnum in last August's primary election for the Democratic nomination for Congress.

Farrell Roberts, a former State Senator from Oakland County, did not seek re-election in the new 14th District, running instead for Oakland County Court of Appeals, where he lost when the Democratic landslide hit the County in November. He held a reputation as a "moderate" during his Senate tenure and was allied with the "young Turks" Republicans against the GOP's old guard.

The 14th District seat includes Plymouth, Livonia, Northville Township in Wayne County, and Farmington, Farmington Township, West Bloomfield and other northwestern Oakland County communities as far west as Holly. About 100,000 persons cast ballots in the district in the November 3 final election.

Council Rows Over Temple

The continuing issue of whether the City of Farmington should exchange its old City Hall for the Farmington Elks Lodge sparked an angry but humorous incident at the Farmington City Council on Monday, Jan. 4.

The Council decided to continue to firm up its agreement with the Elks, despite the fact that they don't as yet have agreements with all of the businesses affected by the proposed special assessment district, on Grand River. Councilman Henry Forrest, who frequently clashes with his fellow Councilmen, took the position that the City should not proceed until it had worked out its relations with the businesses.

Editorial Page Added by Observer

Beginning with this issue The Observer Newspapers will have an editorial page. The new feature was announced with the return to work of Myra Chandler, widow of Paul M. Chandler, Mrs. Chandler was elected President of the Board of Directors of the four newspapers and as such will be responsible for the editorial page. She will also, for the present time, resume her duties as Woman's Editor.

In announcing the editorial policy of the paper, Mrs. Chandler pledged loyalty to the high standards, principles, and ideals clearly defined by her husband through his column Facts and Opinions.

"Unlike the New York Times, we do not aspire to print all the News That is Fit to Print." Unlike the Chicago Tribune, we do not regard ourselves as the "World's Greatest Newspaper." We find ourselves more attuned to the New York Herald Tribune's "A Good Newspaper Need Not Be Dull," stated Mrs. Chandler.

"Paul Chandler knew that a good newspaper was an entertaining one that it was something to spread out and savor.

"But he also knew that a good newspaper had to tell hard truths—to act as the conscience of the community.

"We hope we will continue to inform and entertain our readers. We also pledge to continue to serve as their hair shirt as well."

Democrats Plan Inaugural Ball

An Inaugural Ball to celebrate their recent election victory is being planned by Oakland County Democrats on Friday, January 15.

The Ball will be held at St. John's Armenian Cultural Center, 2203 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. The dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and the dance for 9 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner-dance are \$10 per person and for the dance only \$5 per person. They may be obtained from Ticket Chairmen Mrs. Robert Phillips, 543-1432, and Robert Jackson, 358-3790.

General Chairman of the Ball is Alfred Meyers of West Bloomfield Township. Honorary chairmen are the eleven recently elected Democratic officials—Congressman Billie F. Farnum, State Senators Sander M. Levin, and Carl O'Brien; Representatives Francis Crowley, Arthur Law, Robert Sluiter, and

Farmington Man Dies In Fire

Richard David Hunefeld, 48, of Farmington, was burned to death in his home on the La Blanc Trailer Park, 21421 Hamilton, Farmington Township, last week.

It was apparently an accidental death caused by the victim's smoking in bed. The mattress was destroyed. But the damage to the trailer was not severe.

Hunefeld was an invalid, with one leg shorter than the other. He walked with a cane, but managed to hold down a job as a tool maker at the Star Cutter Co. of Farmington. He had lived in Farmington since 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Achterhoff of Muskegon. He will be buried there.

YMCA Forms Tribes

New tribes of fathers and sons (ages six to nine) are being formed at several Farmington schools. This is being considered a release from the Farmington YMCA, "is one of the fastest growing programs in the country."

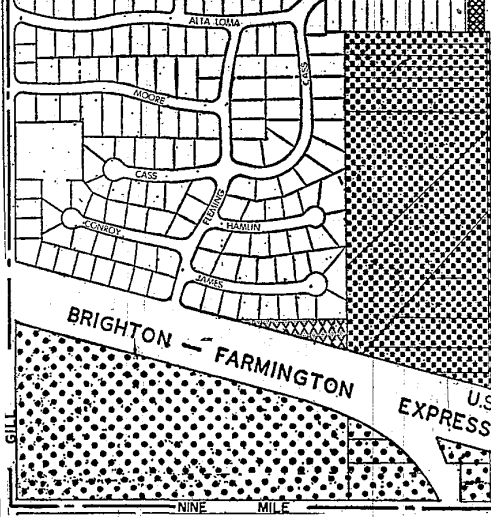
The club will continue with its policy of sending a boy to Wolverine and a girl to Wolverine Girls State. It will sponsor the Michigan International Horse show for retarded children, and other projects which benefit needy or handicapped children.

One of the most important events will be the Spring Festival of Music. This will be comprised of local talent from schools in this area, with the exception of the talented and well-known Kondrakis.

On Monday night, 25 new members will be officially inducted. Guests for the evening will be the Redford Kiwanis Club, which sponsored the Kendallwood Kiwanis.

Becomes Paratrooper Farmingtonite

Farmingtonite, Robert D. Joy is now serving with the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He is the son of Mrs. Marie Randolph, of 23350 Liberty St.



THE CHECKERED AREA running north-south along Farmington Rd. is the property involved in the largest change of the proposed new zoning map of Farmington. Several old, abandoned houses stand on this site. Rezoning from one family residential (R1F) to education research office (ERO) will permit a

Cawley Parents Express Thanks To Farmington

We, the parents of Rex Cawley, wish to thank all of the people of Farmington, and especially the men on the committee, for giving Rex what seemed to us the largest ovation and homecoming that has been accorded any athlete, any place, any time.

Also, many thanks to The Observer for the many wonderful articles, pictures, and stories for this occasion.

We wish we could thank each and every one personally. There are so many who worked so hard, and gave so much time and money, and told us they enjoyed, doing it.

Our only way is to say: "Thank you Farmington. Glad we belong."

Harry and Erna Cawley

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Jerome Bronson To Be Heard At New Forum

S. Jerome Bronson, newly elected Oakland County Prosecutor, will explain the laws concerning censorship at the first program of the Farmington Community Forum this Wednesday, January 6, at 8:00 p.m.

Also appearing at this Forum will be Leo Peck, educator, who will act as Moderator. Erwin Eilman from A.C.L.U. (American Civil Liberties Union); Thomas Hughes from Boy's Republic; and Dr. Alden Shaw, former Headmaster of Country Day School.

The Forum will be Farmington Universalist-Unitarian Church, one block east of Farmington Road and one block north of Grand River of Warner street (28804).

Honor YMCA Week

National YMCA Week will be celebrated in Farmington, from Jan. 24 to 31.



DON GREENBURY hands the key to Zory Barkislan, manager of the Arrow Auto Wash on Orchard Lake Road. Wayne Novels will be the assistant manager. (Related Story on Page 5-A).