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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

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A BUSY SATURDAY at Farmington Library finds all chairs filled and Librarian Mrs. Helen Findlay checking in two piles of books.

Traffic Toll Rates Mixed; Burglaries Up

News stories from the police usually concern the single accident in which someone is killed or injured or the single case of a killing. To put the problems in a little better perspective, The Enterprise waded through nearly three dozen pages of police agency annual report statistics in order to find trends in two of the major areas—traffic accidents and burglaries. Here is what we found:

A 10 per cent lower traffic accident rate in the city and a higher rate in the township were revealed in the 1966 annual reports of the two Farmington police agencies.

Both, however, reported a sharp increase in the number of burglaries for the year. CITY POLICE Chief Robert F. Deadman said there were 470 motor vehicle accidents on public rights of way in 1966, a drop of 10 per cent from the year before.

Deadman attributed the decline to stepped-up enforcement with a new radar car and improved traffic engineering. The major traffic engineering changes were the removal of parking on much of Grand River Avenue and better striping of lanes.

Property damage accidents dropped to 321, compared to 350 the year before. Personal injury accidents dropped by nearly one-fifth to 138 compared to 168 in 1965. There were no fatalities either year.

The number of moving violations issued by city police, on the other hand, has quadrupled over the last five years. There were 466 issued in 1962, 726 in 1963, 1,224 in 1964, 1,563 in 1965—and a whopping 2,104 last year.

TOWNSHIP POLICE Chief Irving Yakes' report showed the total number of accidents in which persons or property were harmed increased by about 15 per cent—to 1,038 in 1966 compared to 899 the year before.

The breakdown in the township statistics for 1966:

- 13 fatalities compared to five in 1965.
- 388 personal injury accidents, up 14 per cent from the prior year's 339.
- 633 property damage accidents, up 16 per cent from the 560 of 1965.

Yakes attributed the increases to a combination of higher population, with its corresponding increase in traffic, and to "people who just drive carelessly."

Township police also issued more tickets last year, although a change in reporting procedures made it difficult to compare the various 1966 classifications with 1965.

BURGLARY was another matter. It increased marked-

ly in both the city and township last year. Where crimes such as auto theft or fraud and embezzlement have held steady and even declined, the number of burglaries and attempts has increased nearly every year for the past five. In 1962, less than 40 were reported to city police; in 1965, the number had grown to 65; last year it swelled to 82.

Township statistics are less comprehensive, but they show the same pattern. In 1965, there were 215 cases, when one lumps actual break-ins and attempted break-ins and a couple of safe crackings. Last year, the number exactly doubled—to 430.

The percentage of township burglaries actually "closed" by police, however, rose some-

what. "You arrest a couple of kids, and it may solve 25 or more cases," explained Chief of Detectives Russ Conway.

City police in 1966 arrested 14 juveniles for burglary compared to just one the year before. On the other hand, arrests of juveniles for liquor law violations declined substantially and for disorderly conduct plummeted. On balance, practically the same number were arrested for all types of crimes in 1966 (119) as in 1965 (115).

ON THE WHOLE, Farmington city and township hardly qualify as a "sin den."

The Enterprise has learned, however, that a New York magazine specializing in individual police cases is looking into a 1965 case here for a feature story.

Sex Education Pilot Classes Set

After two years of determining the needs and preparing a suitable syllabus, Farmington School District and the Merrill Palmer Institute are ready to move ahead with a pioneering program in sex education.

Dr. Armin Grams, director of the experiment from the Institute explained the goals and procedures to the Board of Education at its Monday evening meeting.

Directed primarily toward parents of very young children, classes which will be set up by the adult education department will nevertheless be open to any interested adult.

As Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison pointed out, the program must have community wide support to be of maximum benefit. It is hoped that teachers, clergy, and those involved with youth guidance will participate.

TWO PILOT classes of about 20 members each are now in progress at Cloverdale and Middlebelt Elementary Schools and are being very enthusiastically received. Larry Friedman, with backup man James Brush, is in charge of one, and the other is under the instruction of Dr. Jack Cleveland and Mrs. Jean Ralph.

Additional people will be selected from a training course for 17 individuals which was held earlier in the fall at Farmington High School under the direct supervision of the Merrill Palmer personnel.

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Our Reading Habits: Very Practical

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN. Practically has hit the book stalls.

Fiction is no longer number one on the reading lists. At Farmington Library, books of travel, biography and history lead in popularity. Following close are books on technology and sociology.

It's the rare child who still reads "The Wind in the Willows." Young readers like their whimsy drawn with the broad finger of "Mary Poppins."

Boys read books on space. LIBRARIAN Mildred Droegge says, "Technological and sociological changes in our time have a lot to do in morals. Greater accessibility of distant places has increased the interest in travel books. People can more easily identify with far off lands."

More people are reading than ever before. Publishing is big business.

"I feel," says Mrs. Droegge, "that the abundance of books, magazines and paper backs available, and the efficiency of marketing these, have led

to a greater amount of reading than can be satisfied in the market place. Then people turn to their local library."

And people aren't just reading short books. Despite its length, James Mitchell's "The Source," had more reserves at one time than any book on the Farmington Library shelves. There were 60 at one count.

THE GREATEST armchair travelers in Farmington, according to Mrs. Droegge, are the city's retirees.

The library's retirees are different from those who belong to local senior citizens' clubs. Not interested in cards have a lot to do in morals. Greater accessibility of distant places has increased the interest in travel books. People can more easily identify with far off lands."

Along with a great many people, are a few of them are history bugs. More than a few have made their way through the 12-volume War of 1812 set on World War II. Farmington youngsters are

also great library habits. At term paper time, they overflow the library's 50 seats. Preschoolers crowd the children's section at story hour time.

During the summer, more children's books circulate than adults'. A book like this is purchased with memorial fund and gift monies. Such funds purchased the Library's \$100 set of Graves' "Dictionary of Music and Musicians," also on the reference shelf.

Gift money is donated to the Library by the AAUW, through its annual book sale, and various service clubs. The Questers give money for books on

aniques and the Farmington Garden Club has built up a good local collection of books on gardening and flower arranging, which people come from Detroit to use.

Says Mrs. Droegge, "The whole community is building this library, not just the staff and Library Board, have even gathered some lovely old editions of classics from gift book collections. Some of these cannot be bought anywhere."

Farmington now has 22,000 registered book borrowers. With just 26,000 books on the Library's shelves, the upsurge in borrowing figures out in fine percentages.

Zoning, Plan Decisions Face City

A number of zoning and planning decisions face Farmington city officials in the next few weeks.

No governmental agency is scheduled to meet Jan. 30, the fifth Monday of the month, but the City Council faces a commercial zoning decision on Feb. 6 that will affect expansion of an auto agency.

THE CITY Planning Commission is expected to meet Feb. 6 to hear homeowners protest a proposed change southwest of Grand River and Sherwood. Ford Motor Co. seeks a change (from R-1-P (customer parking) to C-2 (commercial, allowing storage of cars).

The property would be used by a Lincoln-Mercury agency on the north side of Grand River.

Ford representative J. D. Sparks said the company plans to tear out several old homes on the property, which would remove the danger of children playing in them.

After the hearing, the council delayed a decision until the Feb. 6 meeting.

THE CITY Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing a week later, on Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. in the council chambers on an amendment to the master plan government the 457 acres which the city annexed at the end of last year.

Two weeks ago, the council approved two new zoning classifications for the area—R-1-C (country estates) and R-1-D (open space)—in an effort to set up a type of zoning similar to the township's.

The country estates zone requires minimum lot sizes of 15,000 square feet with at least 100 feet of width and allows no more than 25 per cent coverage of the lot by a building. This zoning would cover Woodcroft Subdivision.

The open space zoning would allow smaller lot sizes, but it would also require open space for recreational areas in order to control building density. It would be used in such areas as Chatham Hill, a "planned unit" development.

Planners OK Capital Plan

Open space acquisition and improvements in the downtown off-street parking program are two of the chief items that will be recommended to the Farmington City Council for inclusion in the 1967 budget.

Widening of Farmington Road from Eight to Nine Mile Roads and a water and sewer program for Woodcroft Subdivision are also recommended.

The Planning Commission suggests them as part of a \$44,600 capital improvement program for the fiscal year that begins next July 1.

Approved last Monday by the Planning Commission, the capital plan will go to the Council at its Feb. 6 meeting. The council has final authority over the budget.

THE CITY Planning Commission visualizes a \$139,600 open space acquisition program over four years. One-fourth would come from city funds, with \$10,000 recommended from city funds for fiscal 1967. The State Conservation Department would be the source of the rest of the money.

New Apartments To Be Started

Besides the industrial projects that have been announced in Farmington Township recently, builders last week set to start on nearly a third of a million dollars in apartment work.

The township authorized one community building, five apartment buildings with a total of 54 units, and one gasoline station.

Total value on these building permits was listed at \$347,600, allowing for land values and some equipment costs, it represents a total investment of perhaps a half-million dollars. In the 2200-block of Willowhobby, south of 12 Mile Road, and near Kendallwood Shopping Center, Standard Construction Co. of Detroit will put up a \$150,000 community building, an 18-unit apartment building at \$90,000, and a 10-unit apartment building at \$50,000.

Echelon Valley Apartments, of Ferndale, received the go-ahead on two apartment buildings of eight units each at a cost of \$80,000 each. They will be located on the south side of 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads. Mobil Oil Co. received permission to construct a \$32,600 service station northwest of Grand River Avenue and 196 near Haggerty Road.

AROUND THE BLOCK just after last week's deadline, of all things, the Unitarian Church, 115 being moved to its new location on Haled Rd. and a number of loyal Unitarians were following it as though it were a collipe.

IN SPITE OF THE FRIGID COLD, we spotted Paul Braunstein, Marilyn Betts, Wade Brown, Irma Benson, Hal Whiting, Betty Klepinger, and we understand that lots of others were on hand for the "launched." Most of those mentioned were eating ice cream cones, but they said not to worry, the flavor was hot chocolate.

AFTER ALL THE WEEKS OF WAITING for just the right weather conditions (?) U. U. minister Bob Eddy was out in California "digging the Berkeley campus" the day of the big move. He will doubtless have some illuminating tales to tell about that yeasty scene when he returns to his temporary Farmington Junior High pulpit.

WARREN MCKENZIE OF NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH is justly proud of five of his students who found a wallet containing \$12 and returned it to its owner. They received a monetary reward, but their greatest payment was the pleased and surprised look of the recipient when the lost article was returned.

OH DEER, OH DEER, it has been reported that five of our four-legged friends were killed on expressways between Farmington and Brighton over the week-end. Let's assume that it wasn't intentional suicide after last week's close association with humanity.

MRS. FRANK JANETTE of Rhonswod Dr. would like to set the record straight about St. Bernard's. Although a full grown male dog can weigh as much as 230 pounds, they don't eat nearly as much as one would think. Six cups of dry chow and one of regular each day is enough to keep them sleek and satisfied. She also reported that there are several members of the Michigan St. Bernard Club in Farmington and that their doggie appeared on channel 6 TV last Monday. Congratulations or wof, wof if friend St. B. reads the column.

by shilleyberger



ROME AT CLOVERDALE — Mrs. Sharon Mahr's sixth grade social studies class at Cloverdale Elementary School enjoyed learning about the Roman Empire so much that

it decided to hold a Roman Banquet. Mandy Swartz is being served by (from left) Duane Dix, Wally Candler and Morrie Holt.