

The Farmington Enterprise

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1947

TWELVE PAGES

10 CENTS

Rouge Flood Project Needed, Says McDonald

The danger of a flood on the Rouge River and the need for a federal flood control program have been cited by 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald, R-Redford.

Concern in Michigan about spring floods has been heightened by the more than three feet of snow that have fallen this winter in urban areas. A number of rivers flooded about 20 years ago.

"WE'VE HAD grants to deepen and widen the Rouge from the Detroit River to the

Ford turning basin, but it should be done on Eight Mile Road," McDonald told the Enterprise in an interview.

McDonald, former Redford Township supervisor, said that when he was chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, he had pointed to the Rouge problem at conferences in Washington.

And last week, county officials mentioned the Rouge at a Rivers and Harbors conference of public engineers and government officials in Washington.

People Here Back DST--Rep. Baker

Local people seem to be "all in favor" of daylight saving time, according to State Rep. Raymond L. Baker, R-Farmington.

Baker said he's leaning in favor of the law which places 'all states under daylight saving time for six months--from April 29 to Oct. 29.

Federal law sets up DST, but a state can exempt itself by action of the legislature. Senate bill No. 1 has been introduced for that purpose.

"The flood danger could be greater now than in 1947," McDonald said. "The river is so winding that water can't escape. There have been a number of encroachments on the flood basin--that is, people have filled in holes that the water could escape into.

"And there has been more settlement--more streets and houses and shopping center parking lots. Now the water goes directly into the storm sewers and the river instead of seeping into the ground."

DST WOULD advance the clock one hour, giving an extra hour of daylight in the evening.

"It would give people a greater chance to use the outdoors--to get in a game of golf or go swimming," Baker told The Enterprise.

"Such a flood control project, he said, could benefit Farmington even though the work would be done only up to Eight Mile Road.

THE FRESHMAN Republican said he is the first Michigan lawmaker to be appointed to the House Public Works Committee in a number of years.

"Realistically, the (Rouge) project is still in the future," Baker said. "But I feel we're in a better position now to help than in the past."

He said that within the Public Works Committee, he was appointed last week to "the four best subcommittees"-- flood control, roads, highway investigation and public buildings.

McDonald returned to the 19th District late Wednesday. He will be master of ceremonies at a Lincoln Day banquet in Detroit, receive a flag for his office from the VFW and appear next Wednesday evening at a Lincoln Day banquet in Pontiac with Gov. Romney and depart for Washington early Thursday.

Baker said rural legislators tend to oppose DST because farmers' schedules are upset, but urban and suburban people favor it because it helps them get out of doors.

Baker also announced that he has been named chairman of the House conservation and recreation committee.

In addition, he will serve on the committee on liquor, insurance and youth.

He said practically all his mail on the subject has been in favor of DST.

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ACCUSED KILLER John Merlo, flanked by township Chief of Detectives Russ Conway (left) and Det. Earl Trepples (right), emerges from Justice court here after his arraignment Wednesday evening.

Merlo Brought Back

John Merlo is in Oakland County jail today awaiting justice court examination next Friday on the charge that he murdered his estranged wife on Jan. 6.

Merlo, 25, a factory worker who has listed his address as Niles, O., demanded preliminary examination when he was arraigned Wednesday evening before Farmington Township Justice Byron Walter. An attorney will be appointed.

HE WAS returned Wednesday by township police after he waived extradition in Philadelphia, where he was captured Jan. 23. His return had been delayed by the East's severe snowstorm.

Property Taxes Due Tuesday

Tuesday at 5 p.m. is the deadline to pay your property tax bills without penalty.

City property owners have been billed nearly \$1,197,000 by the office of Mrs. Kathryn Cotter, and township residents have been billed more than \$4,957,000 by the office of Mrs. Elise Avery.

WINTER TAX bills cover county, school district, and community college taxes. In addition, township residents pay their township and library taxes. City residents don't pay their city taxes until summer.

Property owners who wait until Feb. 15 to pay will be charged a 4 per cent penalty.

And those who wait until after March 1 to pay will be charged not only the 4 per cent penalty but interest and the rate of 0.5 per cent a month. And they will have to make payment at the Oakland County treasurer's office in Pontiac, in stead of at the city or township treasurer's office.

Merlo allegedly shot his estranged wife, Sharon, 18, a Redford Township resident, while she was at work in an Eight Mile Road beauty salon about noon on Jan. 6. He eluded police and a week later his abandoned car was found in Ohio. He was captured in a Philadelphia bank where he reportedly attempted to make a withdrawal.



Fire Wrecks Twp. House

Township firemen worked four hours in sub-zero cold early Wednesday morning to extinguish flames in the Milton V. Anderson home at 28219 Farmington Road in Kendall.

No. 4, estimated damage at \$25,000 to \$30,000. Cause of the fire was still undetermined, Button said. Damaged were the garage and a 1966 auto, the family room, kitchen, a small bath, and part of the living room.

There was also smoke damage to the bedrooms. Mrs. Anderson called the department shortly before midnight. A dozen men from companies 3 and 4 responded and were on the scene until 4:15 a.m.

How MSU Can Help Local Gov't. Study

- People in Farmington and all over Michigan tend to want to form a government first, through annexation or incorporation of a city, and figure out how to solve their problems later.
- What they ought to be doing is planning first the kind of community they expect to have, then organizing the governmental structure.
- There's lots of planning going on in Farmington, but the planning groups aren't getting together.

Those are the impressions one forms after spending a morning with three men at Michigan State University's Institute for Community Development.

Their guidance will be important to Farmington's local governmental future. The city, the township and its two villages have fought political wars over annexation to the city and incorporation of the township, an election is likely on whether a major part of the township will incorporate as a city. A Study Committee on the Future Municipal Government in Farmington has asked the MSU Institute for Community Development for some enlightenment.

The last meeting of the study committee was open to nearly all interested groups except the press. So The Enterprise traveled to East Lansing to get acquainted with the Institute for Community Development -- to find out how it got there, what it is, who runs it, how they can help Farmington.

We read their pamphlet, chatted informally, and finally conducted a formal interview on the record. Here is what we found:

Q. What is this "Institute for Community Development" of Michigan State University's Continuing Education Service. Begun in 1938, it is financed by grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, university funds, private grants and sometimes from what it earns under contract for the work it does. Its interests are modern urban problems--streets, parks, planning, police--and other problems which "threaten to engulf many local administrative establishments." That's why it's important but inadequately equipped to cope with mid-20th century needs.

Q. Who are the people in it?

A. Its professional staff consists of two dozen persons, spent roughly half their total time with the institute, half teaching. Director is Dr. Duane L. Gibson, a sociologist; he has been directly involved in Farmington's discussions. So has Edmond W. Atkin, a former county agricultural agent and now a development specialist. So has Vincent Marando, a political scientist. Others are geographers, urban planners, anthropologists, highway engineers, economists.

Q. What do you do?

A. Two basic things: One is research and writing on various problems, some specific ("The Detroit Income Tax"), some general ("Michigan's Local Planning Commissioners' Handbook"). The other, to use the institute's jargon, is "an educational service that assists a community in mobilizing its own human resources, identifying its own problems and working out its own solutions." That's why it has been invited into Farmington.

Q. What has the Institute for Community Development done for other towns?

A. It has helped Benton Harbor with a police organization and training program, metropolitan Grand Rapids with Negro leadership and annexation problems, Pontiac with urban renewal, Muskegon County with a planning commission, the Upper Peninsula with its interest in developing tourism.

Q. How do you get started in an area?

A. By invitation of a local group. In the past, the Institute staff had had contact with Farmington officials through the Detroit Metropolitan regional Planning Commission. In this specific case, the first contact was made by Dr. John Richardson temporary chairman of the 4-member Study Committee on Future Municipal Government in Farmington. He had heard about the Institute through his father, a staff member at MSU.

Q. What do you see as the nature of the Farmington problem?

A. Gibson: "What is the most appropriate governmental structure for the Farmington area? Should it have one government or several, and how should they be structured?"

Q. What kind of planning do you see in Farmington now?

A. Gibson: "Over the years, a variety of planning groups--governmental, quasi-governmental, private interest groups--have been trying to figure out what kind of future they want to see in the Farmington area or some segment of it that they might be concerned about. This would include the city, the township, the two villages, the county and its planning for the total area, and the Detroit Metropolitan Planning Commission."

Q. In other words, the information is there, but it hasn't pulled together because groups seem to be going in different directions, not paying any attention to each other?

A. Alchin: "That is correct, in this sense: Each group is interested in a position that they have established in relation to the future of Farmington. This position is not being communicated. The process of gathering this information and analyzing it will bring about a greater understanding; some sharings of values."

Q. Gibson: "This isn't a reflection on planning bodies in the area. They work very hard. They try to inform people. But very frequently, people don't listen."

Q. What kinds of groups should be represented on the kind of study committee that is getting busy in Farmington?

A. Gibson: "People who have an interest and are going to take an active role in the collection of information and analysis, decisions and follow-through process... The units of government, the economic interests, education and other aspects of the system in the community."

Q. It's perhaps significant that, after meeting with the MSU group, the former "pre-study committee" dissolved and expanded its membership to 14, including two persons each from the city, the township, the two villages, the Board of Commerce, the League of Women Voters and the Jaycees.

Q. You indicated earlier that Farmington and many communities put the cart before the horse--looking at governmental structures (city, township, village, annexation) first as an end in itself rather than as a means of solving problems. Would you amplify on that?

A. Marando: "Very often, the problems which a community may face are misrepresented through their governmental structure. We're concerned with looking beyond just government.

Q. You'd recognize, however, the immediate threat of governmental proposals which may become extremely difficult, at a later time to reverse. If an annexation or incorporation were to occur, this might just add to the governmental situation, which is just one facet of the total community situation."

Q. You've stressed all along that it's important to get information first, and then look for a solution about the governmental structure afterward. Specifically, what kind of information should the local study committee be collecting?

A. Gibson: "Let me start by saying that, in a situation of this kind, people often make a decision on the basis of a limited kind of problem and in a short-range perspective. But they're making a decision that may last a pretty long while, so they better see if they can have some notion what kind of vehicle they're building, not just for the next four or five years but 15 or 20 years from now."

Q. Therefore, the kinds of things we asked them to look for are the things that lie well into the future. There have already been, as I said, a few minutes ago, various kinds of planning bodies to make these projections. We believe there may very well be information at hand, in on planning office or another, that would be useful to them."

Q. And we're talking about data on sheer population numbers. The use to which the land in the area is currently being put. The trends in governmental services. The balance of residential, commercial and industrial use and the direction they're likely to go. Financing capital improvements and establishing regulatory measures, measures which will help to direct future growth and its location."

Q. You also mentioned earlier information on home building and income sources, too--is that correct?

A. Marando: "Yes. Looking at population figures, for example, if a community is made up of young married couples with families, we'll expect them to want different things from their government than older, retired people."

Q. "I'd like to make this additional comment that I didn't make the night (Jan. 19) that we met with the group: "The size and numbers of industries in their area will have their consequences with regard to the kinds of people who might live in that area. If you get one kind of industry, you'll have a population with one kind of education and income base... Hear in mind they'll have to see that somewhere people are provided housing if they're going to work in that industry."

Q. Once the information is collected, will you make recommendations? What will the role of your institute be then?

A. Gibson: "We have indicated a willingness to provide a fairly elaborate outline of the kinds of information which we think people ought to have as they move toward a decision on the appropriate governmental structure."

Q. "We have not committed ourselves for anything beyond that."

Q. The pattern we follow (if asked) is talk about interpretation and consequence of one alternative or another, and not in terms of "We think such-and-such a route would be best for you people in the Farmington area."

Q. How long, realistically, will it take the study committee to gather this kind of information?

A. Gibson: "In answer to the broader question--beyond the sheer gathering of the data and making the first decision--something in the order of a year or year-and-a-half ought to be taken."

around the block

ONE MEMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE staff who has lunch at home was blowing a farewell kiss to her husband as she backed the car out of the drive. A small lad on his way to kindergarten was between the car and the house, and by the time she had a bergerated expression on his face, it was obvious that he thought the gesture was intended for him. It was one of those priceless moments when a person would give anything to have a camera at the ready.

RECENTLY there arrived at a New York zoo a baby hippo weighing 40 pounds. Next day by a strange coincidence there died at the same zoo a large stork who had apparently up to then been in excellent health.

MYRTLE SCHAEFFER called to cite the mailman on the Middlebelt route for extraordinary service despite the recent snowy terrain. She called the post office to learn that his name is Herbert Gagnon and wants him to know that all along the route they appreciate his efforts to deliver their communications from the outside world.

WE WATCHED AN UNEQUAL BATTLE between three king-size crows and a red-tailed hawk in the Township the other day. Contrary to what you are thinking, the crows were no match for Herr Hawk who sailed majestically out of reach whenever he felt eluding his pursuers. As he merely soared on his regal pinions, the crows were cawing and carrying on like maniacs. There seems to be a definite human analogy here; the more flapping and crowing, the less accomplished, Mr. Hawk was a masterful adversary.

ANOTHER MRS. SUBURBANITE--Not she of the "cock" wrench,--was benoaning the fact that her lord and master almost always gets up out of bed and returns with a midnight lunch. The other night, said she, it was just about more than the stuff side could bear; he had two pieces of bologna, six white radishes, and a hot dog in a bun, washed down with a cup of Sunka to counteract any tummy disturbance. The crunching of the radishes in the middle of the night constituted almost a psychologic experience, and you know how nerve-wracking they can be.

WHEN WE VISITED THE CONROY household the other day to photograph some of Sally's beautiful antiques, the hound dog, Speckles, decided that he wanted to be in the picture. We were all for it since hound dogs certainly aren't confined to any particular period. He may not show in the camera range, however, because he absolutely refused to say "Cheese."

by Shirley Berger