

# A Sad Farewell

## FJHS's history book closes

Monday, June 14, 1976

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

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"The worst moment was the very last day when everybody had to leave the building for the last time as a group. As we walked away, many of us looked back ... knowing we won't return. Some cried. I guess it doesn't hurt so bad unless you think about it ... who knows, we probably will do better at our new schools."

Mike Begian,  
ninth grader



Several months ago the decision was made.

Finally, as its suburban student body walked away for the last time, Farmington's oldest school closed its doors.

This time it was forever.

Due to declining enrollments and financial problems, the Farmington School District decided earlier this year to close the old facility.

But not without a struggle. Students from Farmington Junior High School vented to board meetings to have their voices heard. They wanted their school to remain open, providing them with a special education in their own neighborhood.

Yet the mandate came down from the "building on the hill" and plans were made to transform the 58-year-old facility into some other activity.

"I'M NOT worried about the students. They will adjust to the new setting," re-

flects Dr. Will Chiasson, Farmington Junior's principal of four years. "What I do regret are all the memories that will be left behind. It's a sad thing to see."

Only four teachers from FJHS have been paid shipped, but they may be recalled.

All equipment and supplies will be divided among the other secondary schools, as well as the 6% students who attended the former Farmington High School facility.

That also changed in 1975 when the new high school was built on Silverman Street.

"Most teachers and students would rather stay here, but things are changing all around us. Students will experience a change next year as well many of us. But one thing won't change. That's our memories of the experiences we shared here," echoed a fading voice from the dying school.



Loneliness echoed in Farmington Junior's shop classroom last week as only a few pieces of equipment remained to be shipped to the district's other schools.



The halls were deserted and the lockers empty after the last day of classes, but several students and staffers returned to the district's oldest school Friday to help move all supplies and

equipment which will be divided among the other seven secondary facilities.



"It's like cleaning out an old closet with a lot of memories. For 22 years I have taught at Farmington Junior. For the past 18 years in this same classroom, teaching science courses while my wife taught across the hall. It was rumored for years that the school would close, but we rode out the inevitable. Finally, this year it happened. I didn't want it to close ... now I feel bad for those who won't be able to experience this unique school in the future."

Charles Shandor,  
FJHS's science teacher

Staff photo by  
Harry Mauthe



Farmington Junior's Principal Dr. Will Chiasson reflects upon the future of his students and his role as an administrative assistant at Harrison High next year. Chiasson, who has spent four years as the old school's administrator, thoroughly "enjoyed" the job which has given him a significant experience.



"I think it was a terrible mistake. It was the first high school in the city and students from all over came there. The good old days return when I remember the togetherness we shared at our old school in the heart of the city when I was young. It's a shame that it's closing. That old fashion relationship students experienced there will be gone forever. It's really sad ... and I'll hate to see it go."

Mrs. Marilyn Dewar  
1947 graduate

The halls empty...



Students at Farmington Junior High knew for several months that their school would close at the end of the school year, but they still struggled to keep their spirit rolling during

the last weeks of tests and activities. Posters and signs reminded students that it will never be the same as seventh and eighth graders lost a school and the city lost a tradition.

## PARTICIPATE IN THIS BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITY



AT LIVONIA MALL

SIGN UP  
AMERICA!

Join with President Ford, Mayor MacNamara of Livonia and fellow citizens in signing your name on a Scroll with the 1976 Pledge.

"We, the Americans of 1976... Do hereby affirm our support of, and dedication to, the principles which guided the founders of this nation 200 years ago... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Exhibit will be located in Sears Court with the Mayor of Livonia and other officials present at The Mall, 2:30 p.m., Monday, June 14. If you can't make it then, the Scrolls will be available to be signed at your convenience.

MONDAY, JUNE 14 - July 4



DEPICTING MICHIGAN AS HUB  
OF THE AUTO INDUSTRY  
ANTIQUE AUTOS — JUNE 14-19

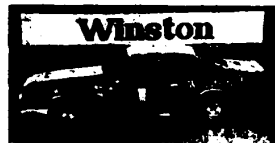
Exhibit by the HURON VALLEY CLUB

Some of the cars will be:

Some of the cars on display are: a 1918 Oakland Roadster — 1921 Ford Roadster — 1923 Ford Roadster — 1923 Model T Roadster — 1929 Ford Buick Wagon — 1929 Olds Sedan — 1925 Packard Touring Car — 1930 Packard Sedan — 1918 Dues Touring Car — 1926 Fiat Sedan — 1916 Buick Chevrolet Roadster — 1925 Chevrolet Touring Car — and others.

SEE THE EXCITING  
WINSTON I RACE CAR  
JUNE 16-19

The car will be entered in the NHRA WINSTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RACE, June 20-27. See the actual race car, and meet the driver!



IRV TASCO  
Caricature Artist  
will be at the Mall  
June 13-20

LIVONIA  
MALL

7 MILE RD at MIDDLEBELT  
OPEN DAILY 'til 9 p.m. — Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.