

# The Farmington

## ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

26 pages, 3 sections

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today's  
hot line

what's inside

### Will School Open?

Maintenance men are oiling the doors for school's opening, but Farmington teachers have yet to sign a contract. A stalemate on wages has resulted in a state mediator being requested. Today, you are told the progress of negotiations and the possibility of a strike.

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### A Lesson Learned

The Farmington Township Board learned a few lessons during the appeal board hearing for Earl Teeples last spring. The lessons were put into writing when the board adopted an amendment to the police manual.

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### Four Wooden Legs

City Councilman John Allen speculates on how consolidation will affect the city's tax base. . . Daniels Den tells of an amputation of four wooden legs. . . Readers write on art, lunches and the presidential primary. This is the coverage of today's Editorial Page.

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### Theatrics

How did two local community theater groups become involved in a national convention? This question is answered, along with two critics' views on a play which just opened and a film currently showing at many local movie houses—all on today's amusements page.

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### upcoming

IN FUTURE editions of your home town paper, watch for:

- A picture story of the man who caricatures the Detroit Tigers—it's amusing.
- A look at what the next census could do to our congressional districts—it's amazing.
- A discussion with Michigan's "Fritz" Crisler about the future of amateur and professional school athletics—it's profound.

### "Sold before we got our paper

... the calls started even before our Observer was delivered, and our dog found a good home, said Mrs. L. Dupont. For good results use Observer Want Ads to buy, sell or trade.

MALE German Shepherd, 1 year old, excellent watch dog. Free to good home. Not for home with small children. 476-0000.

"OB IE" Want-Ad

Classified WANT & ADS  
422-0900



DEATH SCENE — Police administer oxygen in an attempt to save the life of one of two linemen who were electrocuted in a mishap Wednesday at 11 Mile and Inkster Roads.

## Township Mishap Kills Two Linemen

by ED WENDOVER

Two linemen were killed Wednesday while working on the installation of a 13,200 volt line at the corner of 11 Mile and Inkster Roads in Farmington Township.

Dead on arrival at Botsford Hospital were Claude Pettipas and Robert Gremir, both of Montreal, Canada, who were employed as linemen by the Seabro Electrical Contracting Company of Pontiac.

The two men were atop the pole when one of them apparently touched the line. Crew

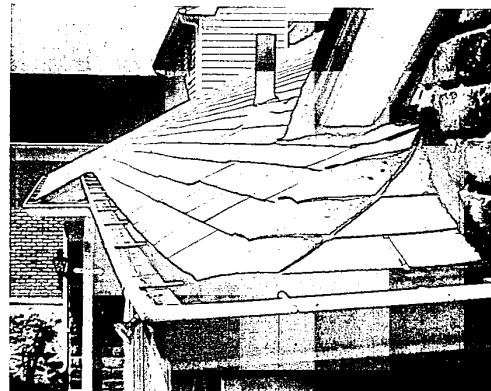
members on the ground were not sure exactly what happened, but told The Enterprise and Observer that the man who touched the line probably slumped over, being held by his safety belt, and touched the other lineman.

Crew members lowered the two men to the ground and immediately began artificial resuscitation. One worker ran to call police.

Pettipas and Gremir had recently come from Montreal to work for the company, temporarily leaving their families behind. A company spokesman said they were attempting to notify the men's families.



THE CHIMNEY of the house in Independence Corners was built two feet lower than the plans specified, Smith says. (Evert photo)



SHINGLES around the edge of the Smiths' roof were trimmed unevenly, and the shingles were laid out of line. (Evert photo)

## Builder Can Lose License

BY WYLIE GERDES

An Oak Park building firm faces a hearing to determine whether its state license should be revoked because of action initiated by the Farmington Township Building Department.

The township department has filed a complaint with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation against Art Strasser, president of Ronart Building Co. of Oak Park, after the company could not settle its differences with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, of 25277 Hopkins Rd., in Independence Corners.

THE EFFICIENCY of the building department and code has been questioned by two groups of Farmington Township residents.

A petition for a review of the building department and building code is being circulated in Olde Franklin Towne by Mrs. Norman Evans of 28769 Rock Ledge. The petition charges the department has been "derelict" in prosecuting code violations.

Homeowners in the subdivision between Grand River and Shawassee previously accused the department of lax code enforcement against the Cousins Construction Co. of Detroit.

In the Smith case, however, work stopped on the house until one violation was corrected and apparently final approval of the house will not be made until several items are corrected.

the contractor and the developer, Thompson Brown Co., since October 1968.

Paul Shover, building department supervisor, filed the complaint Aug. 1 after Ronart failed to repair the house in accordance with the contract between the two parties.

"It's mostly a case of shoddy workmanship. They didn't make an honest effort to do the job we felt we paid for," Smith said. The couple contacted the Enterprise and Observer after reading the article concerning Mrs. Evans' petition campaign.

Both approved of the township building department's efforts to help although no results yet have been obtained. However, they felt the powers of the department should be strengthened so quicker action could be taken.

The sellers' market is causing many buyers to accept poor craftsmanship, they feel. "Most people don't know what they are getting. They move into the first house they can get," Smith commented.

SMITH and his wife, Beatrice, have compiled documentation of practically every contact with both Ronart, the contractor, and Thompson Brown, the developer.

Among the irregularities they observed in their home and asked to be corrected: The plywood used on the roof was warped, Smith charges. The roof was completed Oct. 18, 1968, and Smith's records show the majority of the sheets were



ONE OF FIVE doors rehung by Smith is in a bedroom. Faulty installation, Smith says, caused the doors to close improperly. (Evert photo)



EXPOSED WIRING in the garage of the over \$30,000 house was another of the items which caused the owners to complain. (Evert photo)

## Petitions Ask For Review

By HOWARD KOHN

The drive to force a review of the township building department and building code is gaining momentum.

Mrs. Norman Evans of 28769 Rock Ledge has been circulating a petition asking for a public hearing and investigation.

AS THE Enterprise & Observer went to press, Mrs. Evans had collected 149 signatures, most from her subdivision of Olde Franklin Towne. Several other homeowners have also indicated an interest in starting similar petitions in their subdivisions.

Mrs. Evans' petition charges the township building department with being "tardy and neglectful in inspecting home construction and derelict in prosecuting code violations."

Mr. and Mrs. Evans have been angered at two-year delays in home repairs by Town & Country Building of 22610 Rosewood, Oak Park. Town & Country is a main contractor in Olde Franklin.

IN A SPECIAL delivery letter last week, legal counsel representing Town & Country threatened Mrs. Evans with a civil suit if she persisted in another petition calling for an investigation into its building practices.

Mrs. Evans has garnered 22 signatures on the petition against Town & Country. The petition requests a probe by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HUD is currently investigating Cousins Construction Company of 15811 McNichols, Detroit, which built more than 50 homes in Farmington. A group of Cousins homeowners protested alleged building and repair defaults.

MRS. EVANS reported several petition-signers have complained of missed and late inspections by the township and of slow response in repair making by contractors.

"Some people were afraid to sign the petition, however," Mrs. Evans added, "because they believed the township might get back at them by increasing their taxes or something."

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