

Sly Ladies Get Edge

Christmas shopping exposes the latent battle talents of women in the war between the sexes... In every huddle around a busy store counter, several female quarterbacks can be seen planning their offenses - but never calling the signals aloud for nearby male ears - after sizing up ways of getting to the counter's edge and the kind of men who are in the way, females get tricky.

TO EASE HER WAY past a big male who blocks her progress, she may clutch his arm as though for support and murmur a faint "pardon me," which arouses his concern. While he's wondering if she's fainting, she slips past, pretending to grab the edge of the counter for support. Once at the counter, she nails the saleslady.

Another ruse used by the female shopper is to belittle the male by using him as a model for shirts or pajamas as he waits there with his arms full of packages. By this time he's forgotten where he is and she breezes by on her way to the cashier.

The ladies have less subtle approaches too. Even those who have not studied karate can invent torture methods that cripple those in their paths. A heel firmly placed on a male instep quickly clears the path. An elbow jammed into the male solar plexus accomplishes the same thing. In the armload of packages the dainty ladies carry there is always some hardware, carefully arranged as a weapon clear the way.

THEN THERE IS always the ploy of taking the children along to shop in a crowded store. Any man who gets in the way of a dear little child at Christmastime is thought to be an enemy of motherhood, the American flag and Santa Claus.

It's too late for the mere male to beware of these shopping tactics this year, but this is being offered in the interest of the male ego in 1970.

-Liz Wissman

Readers Write

Why A Poll On Sex Ed?

EDITOR: Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the efforts made toward getting sex education in our elementary grades could be put toward getting obscene literature and films from our public life?

Now we are told that we must educate our little ones in order that they may better understand this trash. Beautiful!

We keep having citizen advisory meetings and board of education meetings and after better than a year now they are managing to wear a few of us down in our battle against sex education in our lower grades. There are still a few left with a little spunk.

I see now where a poll is to be taken in Farmington to see how many are opposed or in favor of the program in our schools. The last meeting I attended, we were still being told that no material had been decided upon or even reviewed. Any time any unfavorable material is presented, it is labeled "John Birch" and anyone getting upset over this has a "sex hangup."

Now I ask, how can a person give an intelligent answer to the proposed poll without first being able to view materials to be used? There have been enough teachers in training at Merrill Palmer Institute for a long enough period of time to let the concerned parents who will be furnishing the money and children know just what is going on.

Why even spend the \$400 to \$500 when I suspect that we will indeed get sex education in our schools, like it or not.

MRS. CATHERINE MAY Farmington

Jajich Gets Commission

James G. Jajich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milo Jajich of 30135 Old Bedford, Farmington, was recently commissioned second lieutenant at Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) commissioning ceremonies at Michigan State University.

Twenty cadets, two from the Air Force and 18 from the Army, participated in the ceremonies that marked the end of four years of officer training at MSU. The commissions become effective when the cadets have completed degree requirements at the university.

The commissions were presented by Col. Bert Shaber, professor of aerospace studies, and Col. Jean Barrer, professor of military science at MSU.

Watching Weight? Try Snowmobiling

Newest help for the weight watcher is the snowmobile.

Winter is no longer synonymous with disaster for the overweight. Snowmobilers ski without slopes, sightsee, hunt, fish and ride to their heart's content—burning calories without monotony, point out Bombardier snowmobile specialists. So many are doing it that more than 100,000 Ski-Doo's will be purchased this winter!



BOOST FOR CAMPERS - The summer camping program sponsored by the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee (YGC) received additional funds to support its program recently. Mrs. Raymond Tridale, chairman of the Farmington Office of Economic Opportunity, Mother's Club to Rev. Hugh Stewart, chairman of the YGC. The money was earned at a rummage sale. (Evert photo)

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

Our Empty Inn

On Christmas Day, the story of Bethlehem will be read to hundreds of children in Farmington. And as the story is read, the announcement again will be heard that "there is no room at the inn."

There was no room, of course, because it was census time and the hotels were packed. Mary and Joseph were sent to a cave underneath the inn, and there the Son of God was born.

Sad? Yes, except that after the census ended there were rooms available, and Dec. 25 was the only time recorded in scripture that there was no room in the inn.

TODAY, in Farmington, in Observeland and in the metropolitan area, there is no room in the inn for many. Farmington, like neighboring cities, has become a city for first arrivals. The latecomers search for a cave.

The average home here is valued at \$35,000 and the average keeps climbing. Prices like these tend to make housing in Farmington unavailable to lots of persons.

SENIOR CITIZENS, born and raised in Farmington, may wish to sell their big home and move into a smaller but cannot find adequate low-income homes.

Sons and daughters of Farmington residents graduating from college and getting married find it tough to return home and settle down.

Veterans getting discharged from the military, getting married and attempting to return home, also have difficulty buying homes in Farmington.

Elderly persons with limited income and young married couples without equity are having to look outside Farmington for a place to live.

There are, of course, low-priced homes in Farmington but most are on dirt roads, lack sewers, and some have well water. Although the

homes exist, they are inadequate.

THE PROBLEM is that suburban planners omitted the young and the old when zoning ordinances and master plans were written.

Instead, subdivisions were built with \$40,000 to \$50,000 homes which became occupied by middle-aged, middle- and upper-class residents.

No plans were made for low-income subdivisions. Partly, of course, because builders cannot make much money on low-income homes and, because land is scarce, developers concentrate on higher-priced homes.

And low-priced homes do not supply as much tax revenues which does not encourage politicians to push hard for the \$15,000 to \$20,000 homes.

Pre-fab trends in the home industry today makes it difficult to construct low-priced homes. But zoning must be available, property, and a developer.

This is a Farmington problem because it involves hardships to parents and children of local residents. As Christmas approaches, we should recognize that in Farmington also there is no room in the inn.

County Defends Tax Assessment Practices

By EMORY DANIELS

The Oakland County Equalization Department did not agree with the position taken by the City of Farmington last spring when it urged the Legislature to reform assessment practices.

The city argued that the state equalized valuation (SEV) factor resulted in increased tax revenues without a vote of the people.

As a solution, the council urged amendatory legislation to automatically decrease millage rates of school districts and municipal governments in proportion to SEV increases.

HERMAN W. STEPHENS, director of the county equalization department responded.

Stephens says it is his department's responsibility only to bring assessments up to a level where they are equal to 50% of the cash value. This is attempted by applying the SEV factor which is determined by real estate samples.

But, Stephens quickly points out, it is the responsibility of each local governmental unit to change individual assessments. If uniformity between individuals' assessments is to be established, he adds, it must be done by the local level.

In other words, Stephens is saying the county is the multiplier, the city is the multiplier, and if there are inequalities in the product, the city should adjust its figures.

Stephens says that in Oakland County, real estate values have increased by 46% in the past four years. Sales data indicate this trend is still intact, he adds, but on a reduced scale.

STEPHENS EXPLAINS that the State Tax Commission recommends a stiffer policy than the one employed by his department. Oakland County uses a three-year residential sales study to establish the level of assessment for homes.

Sales which occurred in 1965, 1966 and 1967 were used to determine the SEV factor for 1968. Thus, assessments in 1968 did not equal the actual average selling prices of 1968.

The City of Farmington observed that the county had not been sampling commercial and

industrial sales at proper proportion to residential samples.

Commercial and industrial sampling, Stephens replied, has been restricted to every second year because of shortage of staff.

"If we are forced to increase our staff and equalize all classes of property each year," he said, "this would place a greater burden on residential properties."

The difference between classes is small, he added, but he would have to double the present staff to work the county on an annual basis.

STEPHENS THEN responded to the city's suggestion that millage rates automatically decrease in proportion to the increase in the SEV factor.

"The taxpayer is protected by public hearings on budgets before they become final," said Stephens.

"Public officials are expected to act and perform in a responsible manner. If they abuse their position, they can be removed at the polls if elected or, if appointed, their contract could be terminated for malfeasance and misfeasance."

"To automatically reduce the tax rate proportionately to the increase in equalized value would be close to freezing the SEV at the present level."

"This would have a crippling effect on many of the local administrations. As an example, Farmington City's equalized value went up 19% while the city needed a 13% increase in the tax revenue to operate. In these days of creeping inflation, it is impossible to maintain present services without some increase in the budget."

STEPHENS FURTHER discussed the inflation problem on government.

"How local government and the schools could be separated

and isolated from the influence of the inflated economy is not clear."

"The same economic pressures of increased operating costs are present at the public level as in the private sector of today's scene."

"The placing of such restrictive measures on local government and schools would appear to only push the operation and control toward state and federal levels for, somehow, the job would have to be accomplished."

Stephens stresses that rising property taxes are not the direct result of rising valuations but instead are caused by increased budgets.

THE INCREASE in tax bills without a vote is not necessarily undemocratic, he adds, because voting residents may exert influence at budget hearings, council meetings and through citizen committees.

If residents make themselves heard, he argued, then the needs of the community should be known. Local government should collect the income to meet those needs and it is up to local government to raise or lower the millage rate.

Stephens concludes by saying there are no arbitrary increases in property taxation. All contributing factors are subject to hearings, he explained, either to the Board of Review, the State Tax Commission or to a court of law.

In next Sunday's article, an expert land appraiser gives his views on assessment practices and tells why he agrees with the City of Farmington.

Clock Repair
Antique Clock Specialists
Sales and Service
Ashdown
Clock Service
33436 OAKLAND
at Grand River
GR 6-3333

OIL PAINTINGS-ART OBJECTS

A wide selection of framed, original oils, statuary, metal sculpture and fine quality reproductions. Come in and browse.

Bon Ton GALERIE

33409 Grand River Avenue
Farmington
477-5191

SPECIAL from Metro!

RCA Christmas album

"Christmastime in Carol and Song"

This outstanding stereo LP album features such top artists as Arthur Fiedler & His Orchestra and Chorus, Steve Lawrence Eydie Gorme and Leontyne Price and such Christmas favorites as "Away in a Manger", "O Holy Night" and "We Three Kings of Orient Are", as well as Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker", and many more. All arrangements and performances were newly recorded by RCA expressly for Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington. The complete album is available to Metro customers for only \$1.00 when they (a) Open a 1970 Christmas Club (b) Deposit at least \$10.00 in a new or existing savings account, (c) Purchase a Savings Certificate. This album is a real collector's item and is not available in retail stores.



metropolitan national bank
of farmington

MAIN OFFICE
33205 Grand River
Near Farmington Rd.
474-1000

REDFORD OFFICE
25719 Grand River
Near Beech Daly
KE 8-9400

QUAKER TOWN
27500 Farmington Road
Near 12 Mile Rd.
476-9111

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Season's Greetings
from
DAN'S GIANT SUBMARINES
"America's Greatest"
A HOLIDAY SPECIAL

FROM NOW THROUGH JANUARY 1...
With the purchase of two submarine sandwiches, receive a third one free!

WITH THIS AD
Ask about our party subs, 3' to 7', for your holiday get-togethers.

31626 GRAND RIVER, FARMINGTON
(FARMINGTON PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER)
PHONE 476-7054

14k fine gold earrings...
The ideal gift for that special occasion...or any occasion!

A Complete Selection from \$8 to \$1,200

• Huggel Earrings \$28
• Pearl Earrings \$35
• Pearl Earrings \$25

26028 GREENFIELD LINCOLN CENTER
McNig's Largest Selection of Pearl Earrings

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS
Mon. - Sat. 10:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. - Wed. - Thurs. Fri. 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.