

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's hot line

what's inside

What's It Mean

In a few more hours, the year will end and another decade will be born. Today, the Farmington Enterprise & Observer staff presents a review on the impact of the '60s to Farmington Area, including the city, township and schools.

Pages 3A, 4A

Will Study Busing

Complaints about an unsafe walkway have resulted in the Farmington school board's authorizing a study on the need for additional busing. While approving the study, the board received another complaint from a resident about use of a school by an anti-war group.

Pages 3-A, 3-C

Here's Clarenceville!

Clarenceville, the tiny school district that was named for a stage coach stop and sprawls across Livonia, Farmington and Redford, did a lot of growing in the 1960s. What are its enrollment prospects for the 1970s? How will the district change its teaching methods? Here's an exclusive report.

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upcoming

PEOPLE DON'T put much faith in crystal balls these days but you will be surprised about the number of safe predictions which can be made on what Farmington of the '70s will be like. Our staff presents a look into the '70s and our readers can take the same look in Sunday's Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

TWO CONFLICTING FORCES are at work in our suburbs:

Metropolitanism -- the growth of regional agencies and large-scale decision making that dwarfs your home town.

Tribalism -- the tendency for people to develop institutions that are close to their homes.

How will this affect your life in suburbia in the 1970s? What changes will new freeways and community colleges make in your economy, your politics, your work, your leisure?

Our first Sunday Feature Page story of the new decade will explore the human side of what will happen in the decade ahead. Don't miss it!



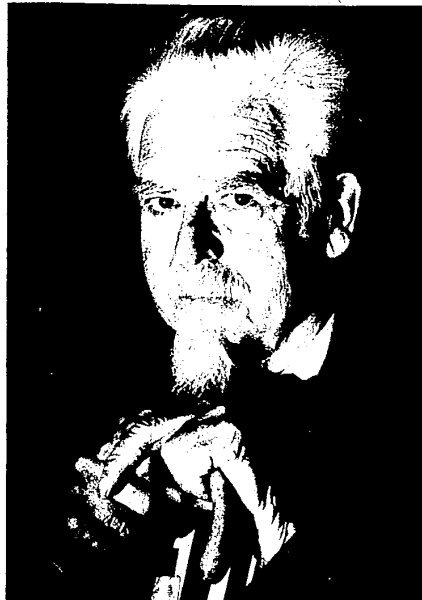
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TRANSITION—In just a few more hours, 1969 will come to an end and with it the end of a decade. Tradition has it that the New Year's baby will kick out the old man as the midnight bells ring. Posing as the main characters for the Farmington



Enterprise & Observer are William Waldie (left picture) and Colonel Welcome. (Everett photo)

A Decade Concludes 60's A Revival For Farmington

By Our Staff

Nineteen Sixty Nine comes to an end tonight in the same manner that the '50s ended and the '70s will begin. The story of the '50s and '60s which will continue into the '70s has been a search. The City of Farmington searching for preservation and Farmington Township seeking boundary stability.

THESE MOTIVES clash and counter-act each other. The city, to preserve its ability to grow, reaches to annex portions of the township. And annexation, when accomplished, further disrupts the township's boundaries.

Once the township incorporates, the city will no longer be able to annex. Cityhood for the township means an end to territorial expansion for the city. Further annexation means further shrinking of township territory and less future growth once cityhood is obtained.

The main events of the '60s were attempts to alter the boundaries of the Farmington Area. The scorecard shows one successful attempt and three failures.

The '50s ended with the incorporation of Quakertown into a village in 1959. Two years earlier, the Village of Wood Creek Farms was born.

In 1966, the City of Farmington annexed some 500 acres from the township including a corridor down Farmington Rd. to Livonia's city limits.

That same year, an election to form a city from the entire township and both villages failed by a 2-1 margin. In 1967, another attempt was

made to form a city from most of the township minus the villages. The piecemeal incorporation attempt failed by a slim margin.

After that defeat, a moratorium on boundary changes was enacted with each of the four governmental units agreeing not to make a move until Michigan State University completed its study on the best means to resolve the boundary difficulties.

MSU recommended consolidation of all four governments into a single, new city and a citizens ad hoc group filed petitions for an election.

The election was held Nov. 4, 1969, and consolidation also was defeated by a slim margin.

The '70s will dawn with annex the southern half of the township as a continuation of the preservation and stability searches.

An attempt is being made to annex the southern half of the township to the city and the township is making a fourth attempt to form a home-rule city.

ALTHOUGH THE cityhood scorecard registered three strikes in the '60s, Farmington Township tripled its services to residents and enjoyed phenomenal industrial, commercial and residential growth.

The City of Farmington's population grew as expected but new development more than doubled. Assessed valuation increased by more than 100%, industrial development was up 40% and commercial activity doubled.

The Farmington School District has kept pace with the growth in the city and township and has expanded its classrooms to make room for

the new pupils.

During the '60s, school construction was basically limited to additions to existing facilities. For awhile, the schools felt a pinch from the population boom and had to locate mobile classrooms at various sites to meet the needs.

But the '60s did include some planning for new schools, schools which will open their doors in the early seventies. Harrison High will open next fall and Wood Creek Elementary soon after.

DURING THE '60s, the

Farmington Board of Commerce was organized and quickly became engaged in promoting and selling Farmington to business and industrial clients.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer asked the Board of Commerce's executive director, Gerald Harrison, what the major developments of the '60s were for the entire Farmington Area.

"I feel that one of the most striking developments of the '60s was in multiple housing," replied Harrison. "Farmington at one time had no rental housing at all and all of the multiple housing development has taken place in the sixties."

"This has had a terrific influence on business. The Board of Commerce gets many, many calls from these residents asking where services may be obtained locally. These persons want to shop locally."

"I think the fear Farmington residents had at one time about multiple housing has dissipated -- there are many more assets than liabilities to this type of housing -- particularly in revenue to the schools," said Harrison who retired during the '60s as superintendent of Farmington Schools.

"The sixties brought the new type of suburban development with the commons approach, parks and open land provided within the suburb itself."

"I think Farmington has been most fortunate in the kind of residential development we have had," Harrison concluded, "in maintaining the environment we've had since the beginning."

DURING THE sixties, the YMCA located in Farmington and recreation programs were started.

A boost to recreation and culture was given when voters approved a school millage proposal for the construction of three swimming pools and three auditoriums.

The Farmington Community Center was purchased after a successful campaign to raise funds to buy the former Good-nough mansion. The Center is now operating and already has a full schedule of activities.

Both city and township governments formed beautification committees. Both areas have started tree planting programs and have started other programs to encourage beautification of shopping centers and business places.

BOTH GOVERNMENTS also wrote matter plans to guide development of the '60s and '70s.

The '60s saw the installation of Detroit water in the area plus construction of sewer facilities.

Both city and township expanded their police departments and fire protection was increased by both governments. A number of roads were paved in both municipalities including the widening of Farmington Rd. in 1968.

Both the Library and Post Office moved into new facilities and at the end of the decade both are making plans for new buildings.

It was in the '60s that the following were introduced to the entire Farmington Area:

Multiple housing; industry; regional shopping centers; recreation programs; specialized commercial shops; city water and sewer; beautification efforts; a community center; the Founders Festival; and many, more people.

Postscript

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer reporting staff, presents its readers with a review of the 1960's in today's issue on this page and inside.

The reviews present a summary of the major developments in Farmington for the past decade. The story below takes a look at what has happened to the entire Farmington Area. Stories inside review what affect the '60s had on the City of Farmington, Farmington Township and the Farmington School District.

In Sunday's paper, our staff will offer a preview of what can be expected in the 70s and what will happen to Farmington during the next ten years.

These reports, by their very nature, are analytical. Although the review of the '60s is basically historical, our account is also an analysis and therefore opinionated.

We want to tell our readers not only what happened but why these events occurred and how they affected Farmington residents.

Combining efforts to present today's reports were Emory Daniels, Liz Wissman and Wylie Gerdes.