

## today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 51 40 pages, 4 sections

## what's inside

### Pollution & Outhouses

Mrs. William Milliken speaking in Farmington urges a revolution of values, Congressman Jack McDonald urges an immediate mediation on postal grievances and a return to work, local residents claim the Student Mobilization Committee is led by subversives, and Charley Williams is caught sneaking out of an outhouse. That's a pretty wide variety of local news.

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### An Early Guess

Farmington Township plans to spend \$3,500 on a study on how to build an adequate tax base. An early guess by one trustee is that planners will recommend a lot of development other than single-family homes, which are described as the worst tax-producing base for government.

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### 60 Minutes

About 20 residents from the southeast of Farmington Township spent an hour Monday night asking trustees for relief. The township board responded by promising to arrange a meeting with Oakland County officials and by promising to investigate possibility of a matching fund program for ditching.

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### Cleaning The Earth

Suburban governments could get state grants for pilot programs for the "Clean Earth Corps" that Gov. Milliken wants to start this summer. And the governor tells us he's getting some "interested response" on the idea. See Regional Affairs.

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### Dullsville

When Vance Packard appeared at Schoolcraft College, he had one of the liveliest topics in the world - sex. But his delivery and ideas failed to stimulate his audience, our man on the scene found.

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### He's in Business On Your Street

Your neighborhood boy is gaining valuable business training through his Observer route. The 50¢ you pay him each month for our New Carrier Subscription Plan assures his success in his first business venture. Be sure to ask for a receipt, which will guarantee delivery of The Farmington Observer.

# Farmington Carriers Walk Out

## Mail Service Halts Monday



POSTAL PICKETS-Farmington letter carriers refused to report to work Monday and formed picket lines in front of the Farmington Post Office. Local postal clerks have refused to cross the picket lines and Teamsters have stopped making deliveries or pickups. Mail service Monday in Farmington was at a complete standstill. (Evert photo)

Mail operations were at a complete standstill Monday in the Farmington Area as letter carriers walked out.

While some 70 local carriers were on strike, most clerks stayed home in sympathy to the strikers. Only one clerk crossed picket lines.

THE SKELETON CREW inside the U. S. Post Office on Slocum, just east of Farmington Rd., could handle little of the mail sorting as mail service abruptly halted.

Teamster drivers are also honoring the wildcat strike by refusing to pickup or deliver mail by truck.

The Chicago region of the U. S. Post Office Department has placed an embargo on all mail with a 480 and 482 zip code.

Maurice Dever, superintendent of mail for Farmington, says the local branch cannot accept or deliver any mail.

The Farmington Post Office is not accepting any mail whatsoever over the counter and will not pickup at any of the mail boxes in the area.

The only mail box in which letters can be deposited is located in front of the Farmington Post Office.

Dever says employees will unload that box as it fills, but the mail will go nowhere once taken inside the Post Office.

Dever urges residents not to use the box at all, however, until further notice.

DEVER HOPES steps will be taken soon to allow deliveries especially before the April 15 deadline for federal tax returns.

Residents are asked to hold onto their tax returns until further notice when instructions will be printed in this paper.

"The ramifications of this strike are alarming beyond comprehension," says Dever. "Action must be taken soon. Right now, we are acting on an hour by hour basis. We can't even sort mail now."

Jim Hawks, president of Farmington Branch 4570 of the National Letter Carriers Association (NLCA), was in Washington Friday to meet with national NLCA leaders.

Friday night Farmington carriers voted not to return to work. No deliveries were made on Saturday.

Sunday the carriers met again and after a two-hour session reaffirmed Friday's vote not to return to work. Hawks had returned Saturday from his conference with NLCA leaders.

A STATEMENT was issued Monday to the Farmington Enterprise & Observer by Bill Hallman and Bill Rence. Hallman is treasurer and Rence carrier representative of Local 4570.

"Technically, it is a wildcat strike. We will stay out until something develops that is a definite pay advantage to us," the pair confirmed.

Rence said the local is asking the mail clerks to honor the picket lines. "They are doing it voluntarily on their own convictions," he added.

The two stressed the Farmington carriers will deliver any vital mail, such as medicine or social security and pension checks.

Rence said local Postmaster Henry Trombley has been notified the Farmington carriers will deliver vital mail without pay.

The Farmington vote was almost unanimous, they reported, even though carriers will not receive pay while on strike. The local does not have a strike fund, says Rence, "because once the public understands our demands, we shouldn't be in this position again."

Clerks not reporting for work are also getting their pay docked.

The local said carriers are appreciative of the moral support received from the public, are sorry for the inconvenience and hope the strike will end very soon.

"We don't look for a long strike but expect Congress to act immediately," says Rence. He added a telegram sent to President Nixon from about 10 congressmen urging immediate action included the signature of Congressman Jack McDonald.

There is one mail carrier who did report to work Monday. The individual is a military retiree who is concerned about losing his military pension should he engage in an illegal strike against the government.

## What To Do During Post Office Strike

The mail carrier strike which hit Farmington Saturday has left local residents and merchants in a dither.

It was the first walkout by postal employees in the Post Office's 195-year history. After taking mail for granted for years, people are now wondering what to do without mail service.

ALTHOUGH IT IS not expected to be a prolonged strike, confusion will exist each day that deliveries are delayed. Should the strike continue, President Nixon will probably order the U.S. Army or National Guard to step in.

Meanwhile, Farmington residents are wondering how to pay their bills and merchants are wondering how to deliver them. Obviously, a number of persons are concerned about receiving social security and pension checks and mailing tax returns.

An immediate problem for many will be obtaining certificate of insurance payments to purchase automobile license plates.

C.A. Spencer, head of the Farmington division of AAA, advises all motorists who have not yet purchased plates to drive directly to their insurance agent's office to obtain certificates.

Many motorists may have just recently sent in an insurance premium payment and should not depend upon receiving a certificate back in the mail, Spencer stressed.

Instead, local insurance offices will issue certificates, says Spencer. Because each insurer is given at least a 30-day grace period, certificates will be handed out even though payment may not have reached the central office.

The deadline for purchasing license plates is March 31 and applicants must have a certificate of insurance and copy of title when buying plates.

Spencer advises all residents to make all important payments in person, including utilities, house payments, car payments, charge accounts and insurance premiums.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT date is April 15, deadline for sending in your federal tax returns. Tax returns must be hand-delivered to the post office by April 15.

Postal clerks will postmark the tax return according to the date it is delivered, and the federal government will honor that postmark even though the return may not be received until sometime later. But those lucky enough to get refunds will have to wait.

FARMINGTON POSTMASTER Henry Trombley told this paper he does not expect the strike will last more than two or three days.

Trombley said he is awaiting instructions from the regional division in Chicago on specific steps to take. Instructions, he said, will be coming from the inspection service and field service of the regional office.

FRED BRAYTON, Farmington manager of the local Detroit Edison branch office, says residents can make payments directly at the branch office which is on the east side of Farmington Rd. south of Grand River.

Brayton said a decision might be made for Edison electric bills to be hand-delivered by clerks. But residents can estimate what their bill is by checking past payments and drop payments in the night deposit slot at the back or front door.

Brayton added his clerks will call to find out the exact amount due for persons coming into the office during normal working hours. For those estimating bills, an overpayment will be either credited on the next month's account or refunded, depending upon the amount.

Those using the night deposit slot should use a check or money order and not cash, said Brayton.

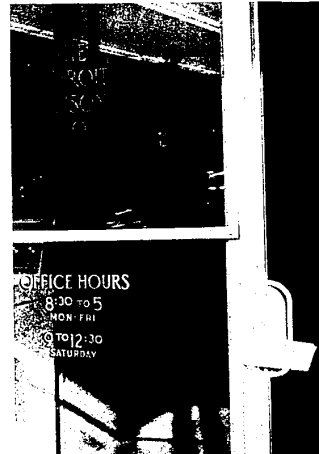
CONSUMERS POWER CO. also encourages residents to make payments in person at the Farmington branch office which is located on the east side of Farmington Rd. and south of Grand River, directly across from the Farmington Enterprise & Observer. Night deposit boxes can also be used. Any overpayment on gas bills will be credited on the next month's bill.

Gerald W. Boner of Michigan Bell Co. says the mail strike is critical because the phone company depends 80% on the mail for payments.

Boner said Michigan Bell will not shut off service during the mail strike for non-payment of bills.

Phone users may call Michigan Bell to find out

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NEW MAIL BOX -- If the postal strike continues much longer night mail slots at utility company branch offices will be put to full use as means of delivering payments. (Evert photo)