

Farmington flashback

25 YEARS AGO

Lead story in the Sept. 19, 1957 edition of the Farmington Enterprise was headlined "Supervisor Urges Study on Possible Incorporation of Township as City." Text of the story elaborated very little on the idea, explaining "A suggestion that Farmington Township incorporate as a city and numerous other problems were brought up and discussed Monday night at the quarterly meeting of the Farmington Township League of Subdivision Associations. Township Supervisor Frank Stephenson made the incorporation suggestion and answered many questions about the progress of various projects."

• The Farmington School board met with the Livonia School Board to discuss transferring students living in the northwest corner of Livonia who attend Farmington schools to the Livonia district.

• Zolkower's department store at 31578 Grand River, Farmington, was selling Carter's Sundown baby sleeper outfits for \$3 and Warner's A'lure elastic bras for \$3.95.

• Sirloin steaks from cattle fed "grain grass" instead of corn sold for 69 cents a pound at the new (and now defunct) Kroger's supermarket in Farmington Plaza shopping center.

50 YEARS AGO

The lead story in the Sept. 15, 1932 edition was headlined: "Farmington is Still Stronghold of Republicans." So what else was new when the lead paragraph read: "Farmington remains one of the most rockbound of Republican strongholds after the primary election of Monday which showed Democratic gains throughout the state. Farmington City particularly held steadfast to the dominant party with five times as many Republicans as Democratic votes; and Precinct No. 1 of the Township was almost equally strong for the G.O.P. with Republican ballots almost four times as numerous as those of the minority party."

A sidebar complimented Farmington city voters on their intelligence in the voting booth. "Mayor Arthur Lamb reported that of 305 primary tickets cast not a single ballot was spoiled." The hometown paper issued a challenge to another city in the state of comparable or larger size to match that record.

They wanted busing back in 1932. "Because of complaints from the parents of school children liv-

ing in the outlying parts of the district, the Farmington Board of Education has reversed its previous decision to discontinue the school bus, decided upon a month ago as an economic move." The loudest howl came from parents in the Pasadena Park subdivision who told school board members one of the reasons they stuck with Farmington School District instead of Bond School District was the promise that their students would be bused. It was the time of the Great Depression, and the Farmington Enterprise supported the decision editorially but worried that "anything cut from one place will bob up in another." In reinstating the bus (singular), the school board cut the driver's salary from \$70 monthly to \$45. "Sit tight and hope for the best," the editorial suggested.

73 YEARS AGO

"A Fine Trip" was the headline over the lead story in the Sept. 17, 1909 edition of the Farmington Enterprise. Story read like a travelogue in detailing the reporter's steamship journey to South Sea, Marie with the Eastern Michigan Press Club "via the Georgian Bay and Thirty Thousand Island."

"The party left Detroit Saturday afternoon, Sept. 4 on the steamer King Edward. The only unpleasant feature of the trip was the unkindness of the weatherman in sending some rough weather, which necessitated the tying up of the steamer at Point Edward all day Sunday and which later caused the most of the party to enjoy all the unpleasantness of seasickness. But, notwithstanding all this, it was a very fine trip." Not very interesting reading, mind you, but a fine trip. The highlight, if you could call it that, was the "moving picture shows," said our reporter, "the latter being the delight of most editors."

School books in Farmington public schools were approved with ninth-graders required to read "Lady of the Lake," 10th-graders reading the "Vicar of Wakefield," and "House of Seven Gables" was the required text in 11-grade classrooms.

• A new state law was passed, making it against the law for anyone under 21 to smoke cigarettes in public places. "The smoking of 'coffin nails' by mature men is bad enough," the story opined, "but the big percentage has been among boys." Sale of tobacco to teens wasn't illegal but possession of rolled cigarettes was.

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