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FARMINGTON

THRU

BIFOCALS

By FRED DELAND

THE SNEEZE AS A TRAFFIC HAZARD, as far as the writer knows, has yet to benefit from a philanthropic appropriation for scientific research, but it's a project which merits deep consideration.

Of course, if you're not a chronic sneezer yourself, or if you're not married to one, then the morning ritual of a resounding series of sneezes may be foreign to you. The real problem is with the guy who lets go with a hearty sneeze while behind the wheel of an automobile barreling down the freeway.

Irving Yakes, long-time police chief of Farmington Township, paused in his law enforcement routine recently to go on record as a believer in the sneeze as a contributing factor in the nation's traffic toll, but like others he lacks statistics to back it up.

Most people, so it is said, close their eyes when they sneeze. All people close their eyes when they sneeze. If you don't believe this, try keeping 'em open next time you pop out with one of those explosive exhalations.

This is where the sneeze ties in as a traffic hazard.

ACCORDING TO DR. MILES TAYLOR, a Wayne State University Medical School professor who specializes in nose ailments, there's a half-second or so when a sneezing motorist is "almost completely incapacitated."

This, again, is because of that reflex which causes the eyes to go shut.

"If a driver feels a sneeze coming on, he should take some precautionary action," suggests Dr. Taylor. His advice is to slow down and grip the wheel firmly, being sure that the forward movement is free of obstruction because no one sneezes without bobbing the noggin.

Most popular methods of inhibiting a sneeze are by pressing a finger against the upper lip, or rubbing the tip of the nose, but I've tried both and at best they only delay the explosion.

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE who wonders why you get those sneezing attacks shortly after awakening, chances are you are afflicted with vasomotor rhinitis, which only means that there's a swelling in the nose membrane due to a chemical change.

Personally, I have a theory that when snoring ceases, sneezing begins, but until that philanthropic study grant comes along there's no way to prove it.

Although Dr. Taylor states that doctors don't know as much about the human sneeze as they wish, he does come up with a method of bringing one on. Look at a bright light. That's all, if you feel the urge developing, just look at a bright light and faster than you can say ker-choo you'll experience the violent expiratory effort desired.

In an era when do-it-yourselfism prevails, it can be suggested that sneezers equip themselves with a kit which would include: a) a light bulb; b) a long extension cord; c) an automated forefinger for lip pressing and nose rubbing. It's this corner's contribution to the cause of highway safety.

Farmington Has Its Own Entity

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Living in the shadow of a great metropolis, Farmington tends to forget it has had a separate identity as a city for more than 100 years.

True, each year the Founders' Festival recalls this, but inbetween Farmingtonites slip into calling the city a suburb.

THIS IS TRUE of the township, but not the city. The city is an entity unto itself, and has been for more than a century.

The Farmington Historical Society is to be thanked for remembering this fact and for its labors to research data and facts pertaining to the city's lineage.

Lately we have been reminded by the society that not many of today's communities have families still living within their confines who were among those present more than 70 years ago.

WE'RE REFERRING to a current society display in the Metropolitan Bank which shows three generations of one family who graduated from Farmington High School.

The oldest picture is that of Minnie Cox, who graduated in 1898. Second is that of Mrs. Rupert Briggs, better known as Kay, who graduated in 1929. Latest is that of Mrs. Briggs' son, Robert, who graduated from FHS in 1958.

Other historical pictures pertaining to early Farmington school life are included in the display, which would be worth a visit.

IF NOTHING ELSE, viewing the display will give newer Farmingtonites a sense of history and heritage.

And somehow, history and heritage place things like today's battles over paving, sidewalks, barricades, sewers, school budgets and civic expenses in proper perspective.

Trustees Take 'Refreshing Step'

AT THE RISK of having a horde of "educators" picketing the office, this seems to be the time to toss a bouquet to the Farmington Board of Education.

Why? Because they took a refreshing step Monday night.

What's that? They hired a professional in the business field to administer the business affairs of the district.

The gentleman is a professional in the business field—he's not an educator.

FOR SOME UNKNOWN reason school districts have been obsessed with the idea of hiring "educators" for every position during the past few years.

Business, purchasing, public relations, construction—it didn't matter what field, the qualification was that one be an "educator." (You can pick your own meaning for "educator"—it has as many connotations as uses.)

Farmington has been the exception. The building and sites man is qualified

and with a wealth of experience in his field. That's just one example on the Farmington staff.

School Board President John Washburn III made a point of asserting that the district needed a person with a business background rather than classroom experience for the post when he announced the appointment.

The Board actively sought applications from the business world through advertisements in the Wall Street Journal.

It is an example that other districts could follow.

MONDAY NIGHT the Farmington City Council named Frederick M. Seibert to fill Hugo Peterson's vacant seat on that governing body.

It's a good appointment. Seibert has served on the city's planning commission and has a practical and hard

headed approach to the problems.

He's also a guy who fights hard for his point of view. He's also fair though and is the first to admit that he might have been wrong.

What other qualities can the public expect in a public servant?

Realistically none.

ONE FINAL NOTE: In slightly more than four weeks the primary election will be held in the state of Michigan.

While it isn't a presidential primary, it's an election that is crucial.

Nominees for township trustees, county offices, congressmen, state representatives and a host of judgeships are at stake.

The hottest race of all is likely to be the contest for District Judge for Farmington city and township.

At an annual salary of \$27,500, the post is the highest paid on the local level. It's a vital and sensitive job.

Opportunities will present themselves to learn about all the candidates during the weeks ahead.

We hope you make use of them.

Sue Shaghebassy

editorial



THE REDCOATS ARE COMING—Typifying the colonial tradition of American Independence Day, these youngsters in the Kendallwood Colony Park parade marched with a pole from which hung eight red jackets. The placard carried by the youth in front warned of the approach of British troops.

Oops!

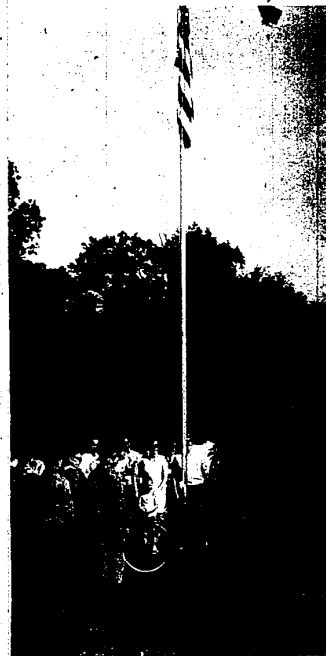
The Enterprise & Observer incorrectly identified the picture of the two-mile runner in Wednesday's coverage of the Jaycee Junior Champ event. The picture was of Dick O'Connell, who placed second, Larry Williams won the race with a time of nine minutes 36 seconds.

Receives Degree

Marsha A. Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle K. Young, 3011 Old Bedford Rd., Farmington, a graduate of North Farmington High School, has received a degree from Monmouth College of Wayne State University.



PART OF A TRADITION—Canterbury Commons subdivision turned the Fourth of July into a family fete highlighted by such traditional fun as this watermelon-eating contest for the youngsters.



LONG MAY SHE WAVE—Residents of the Briar Cliff subdivision marked Independence Day with special ceremonies including this flag raising by Boy Scouts of the area.

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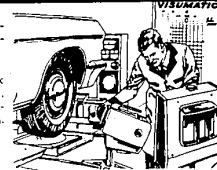
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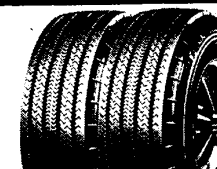
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