

School Chief's Salary Boosted

Farmington's Board of Education gave Superintendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith a complimentary vote where it counted the most Monday night, in his pocketbook, by hearing up his old contract and granting a \$1,000 raise for each of the next two years.

Dr. Smith succeeded Gerald Harrison as head of the Farmington school district in 1967 and at that time the ex-Deerborn Heights school chief was hired under a three-year pact calling for successive salaries of \$22, \$23 and \$24 thousand.

His second and third years of the contract now read \$24 and \$25 thousand.

JOHN WASHBURN, president of the board of education characterized the increased salary as a vote of confidence, a pat on the back for a job well done in Dr. Smith's first year, and also as a forerunner of a general administrative salary plan based on the hikes in wages given to teachers.

Last year, the board did not adopt its administrative pay scale until late in the first semester after the adjusted salaries of principals and others of the central staff to the wage scale increases previously approved for teachers.

Similar timing is expected in 1969. Teachers received an over-the-counter economic boost of approximately 10 percent in fringes and direct wage increases. Dr. Smith's 1968-69 salary boost from \$22,000 to \$24,000 for the same year represents a hike of four and a half percent.

Asked whether this could be accepted as a vote favoring Dr. Smith's first-year administration of the 20,000-pupil school system, Washburn pointed out, "Well, he did have a contract with two years yet to run, 'didn't he? It wasn't necessary to raise his salary at all except to maintain a balance between the administration and other employees."

IN ITS SECOND major action Monday, the seven-member board voted unanimously to ratify the new master agreement with the Farmington Teachers Association.

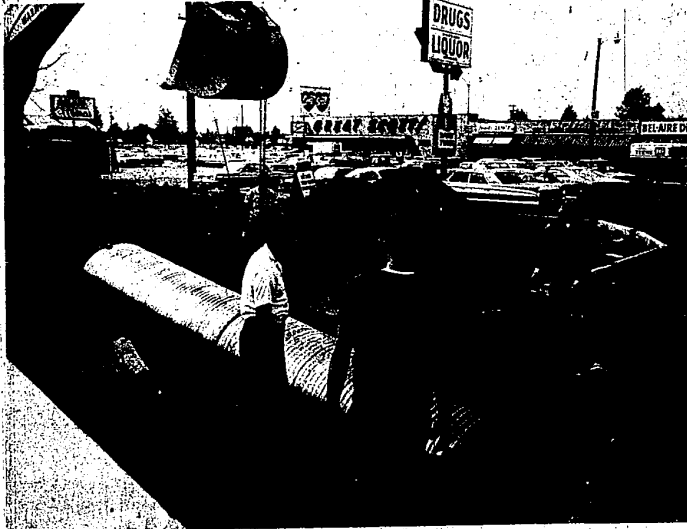
The one-year pact assures the continuity of school through the 1968-69 academic year, with a staff of more than 700 teachers.

Five representatives of the

F.E.A. participated in contract signing ceremonies with board of education members, an occasion which seemed to lack the "verve" of some of the teacher strikes threats prior to settlement of terms.

Reconstruction of the athletic running track at Farmington High School also commanded attention Monday, and although the issue had been under discussion for some time it was decided to hold off a decision for at least another two weeks pending new bids.

The question is whether to resurface in the old-fashion-



NEW DITCH — Crews began work this week on reditching the north side of 10 Mile Rd. west of Orchard Lake Rd. Residents of Bel Aire Subdivision have contended that the filling of the

State Tax Windfall To Help Roads

A mild windfall to local governments stemming from unexpectedly high state income tax returns appears to hold the prospect of helping solve Farmington Township's inevitable, specific headache concerning deteriorating roads.

Superintendent Curtis H. Hall said this week that the township probably will receive for 1968 about \$20,000 more than it anticipated from its share of the income tax.

This money will go into the general fund and Hall says he believes it should be allocated for road maintenance and improvement (when budget time rears next spring).

He suggested that on a matching basis it could represent an extra \$40,000 as the end result of aid to the annual road program.

That figure is predicated on the \$20,000 from the state being matched by \$20,000 from property owners, and this \$40,000 being equaled by a county appropriation.

In its 1968-69 budgeting, the township based its income tax anticipation on a distribution basis of 80 cents per head from the 1960 census.

State collections have surpassed anticipations by such a large degree that the actual distribution to local governments has approximated 85 cents per head.

Payments for the first two quarters of 1968 already have been forwarded by the state, through County Treasurer James J. Seestler. They are 30 percent more than provided for in the budget.

In the City of Farmington's case, the windfall is expected to hit about \$7,000 for the year. This is based on 1960 census figures in the city being 7,108 residents against the township's 22,299.

If the distribution formula is left unchanged, the 1970 census is certain to result in a bonanza for both units.

City Planners Examine Clinic Rezoning Request

At the request of The Township Planning Board, Farmington city planners spent part of their meeting Monday night considering a rezoning request made to the township for a medical clinic on the northwest corner of Freedom and Gill Rds.

Zoned residential by the township, the two and one-half acre parcel faces city property across Gill Rd. and five residences which are within city boundaries.

Proposed for the site is a 10,000 square foot building and parking for 75 cars.

THE PETITION for the rezoning was first turned down by the township planners with a public hearing. The Township Board directed the planners to hold a public hearing, now set for Oct. 23.

The City Planning Commission discussed the pros and cons of office zoning for the parcel of land and deliberated the consequences of "strip zoning."

THE CITY officials also considered what effect opening the door to further commercial zoning would have on Chatham Hills Subdivision about one-half mile down Freedom Rd. from the proposed clinic.

ATTORNEY Albert Herzog, who attended the meeting as a representative of the petitioner, was directed to present the city planners with a more detailed site plan by their Oct. 14 meeting. By that date City Manager John Dinan will have the opinion of the professional city planner on the matter.

Abutting property owners will be invited to the October meeting on an unofficial basis.

Whatever decision the city planners make on the issue will have no effect on the township planners because the property in question lies within the township borders.

Flying Tackle Works

A Livonia man who allegedly stole a Plymouth-owned automobile in Farmington Township late Sunday night was arrested by a City of Farmington officer whose flying tackle carried both the policeman and suspect heading into the small lake in front of the Star Cutter Co. on Grand River Ave.

Placed under arrest was John Roger Vonsauers, 24, of 20920 Richland, Livonia. Vonsauers weighs 120 and stands six-foot-three.

The arresting officer, exhibiting gridiron talent reminiscent of a Bruce Maher, was Sgt. Daniel Byrnes, who packs about 150 pounds on a five-nine physical frame.

Vonsauers was charged with fleeing arrest as well as driving with a suspended license and unlawfully driving away an automobile.

According to police, the car is owned by Larry Hostler, of 802 Fairground, Plymouth, and was taken from the Grand River Drive-in Theater in the township.

Hearing a broadcast from Farmington Township police at 1 a.m. Monday that the vehicle had been pointed going west on Grand River, Sgt. Byrnes caught up with Vonsauers at Grand River and Farmington Rd.

With blue lights flashing, spotlight focused on the fleeing vehicle and siren screaming, Sgt. Byrnes said he pursued Vonsauers north on Farmington Rd., west of Shawwassee, and then out Grand River until forcing him to the shoulder of the road.

Vonsauers jumped from the car and ran north, according to the sergeant, who said he chased him from behind, with both going heading into the lake.

Sgt. Byrnes reported he dragged Vonsauers to shore, and assisted by other officers from the city and township, placed him in custody.

Meanwhile, the automobile driven by Vonsauers had been left in gear when the suspect leaped from it and had careened into the lake where it was submerged to the roof.

Vonsauers was turned over to Farmington Township for prosecution.

Farmington Road Opening Slated For Sept. 23

City Manager John D. Dinan announced this week that Farmington Rd., from Eight to Nine Mile Rds., will be opened to through traffic no later than Sept. 23.

The thoroughfare has been widened to four lanes, and Dinan reported that all paving and installation of gutters and drainage have been completed.

The contracting firm currently is engaged in final cleanup stages of the project, said the city manager.

Originally the scheduled date for completion was set for Oct. 1, but despite problems caused by several heavy summer rains, falls the project will be finished ahead of schedule.

Meanwhile, another phase of the street improvement program in the Alta Loma subdivision will be started this week.

This involves installation of curb and gutters on Moore Dr., from Fleming Dr. to Gill Rd. The city has issued a contract

Youth Loses Special Bike

A 15-year-old Farmington youth is heartbroken that his bike was stolen Friday night or Saturday morning.

The bike looks like any other heavy-duty black Schwinn bicycle, but this one is special because it was the last gift the boy received from his mother before she died two years ago.

The lad's legal guardian, his aunt, Mrs. Robert Vick, 21896 Purdie, Farmington, explains that the youth treasured the bike more than any other of his possessions. She asks that area parents check their homes and garages to see if her charge's bike might be there.

The bike has a 10-inch long orange stripe on the back tire, a slight dent on the back fender and bears a Detroit license.

The bike's owner does not want his name published because, says Mrs. Vick, "He doesn't want all his school friends to know he's an orphan. They'd fuss over him."

Anyone with information regarding the bicycle may call Mrs. Vick at 476-5973.

You Must Register To Vote

Additional hours for voter registration will be held throughout the month of September in Farmington Township.

Township Clerk Fred Cairns reminded voters this week that Friday, Oct. 4, is the final day to register in order to vote in the presidential election.

You must register if you have recently moved or have not voted during the past two years.

Special hours of the township office are: Sept. 12, 13, 19, 20, 27, 30, Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, Sept. 14, 21 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The township hall is located on 11 Mile Rd. just west of Orchard Lake Rd.

To the city, special voter registration hours are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The city hall is located on Grand River at Liberty St., just west of Farmington Rd.

today's hot line

observerland

GARDEN CITY—The first community Fall Festival in the city's history will get underway Sunday with a program by the Detroit Concert Band. The week will also include art shows, flea markets, and a Pioneers Day luncheon to honor the city's oldest residents and businesses.

LIVONIA—The Livonia Board of Education adopted a \$26,100,620 budget for the current school year at its regular session Monday night. Also approved was to ask voters at the special school election Sept. 30 for a renewal of the present seven-mill operational levy and the levying of an additional four mills for future use.

REDFORD—Paul Borkas, developer of several apartment complexes in the township, has picked up the option on Glenhurst Golf Course. A rezoning petition seeking high rise and other multiple dwelling units was withdrawn by previous would-be developers.

PLYMOUTH—City Commission ready to complete negotiations with police and firemen over terms of new wage contract. Economic factors expected to be decided on Wednesday night.

WESTLAND—Nankin Mills teachers and the school board presented their cases to a fact finder Monday to resolve their salary dispute. Teachers have rejected the board's latest offer but agreed to not hold up the opening of school last week.

GARDEN CITY—Citizens attending a public hearing on a proposed urban renewal project Wednesday urged the City Council to not accept "federal government giveaways" in the form of federal aid. The project would have 31 acres in the downtown section cleared for a commercial shopping center, residential housing, and senior citizens' housing.

LIVONIA—Plans are in the offing for a new district court building as quarters for the two judges who will occupy them after the November general election. Various proposals were discussed by Municipal Judge James McCann, who will automatically be seated on the District Court, and the two nominees elected at the August primary for the remaining seat. They are: Steve Polgar, city attorney, and James Miles, local attorney who headed the Charter Revision Commission.

WESTLAND—The City Council is looking for a new City Clerk to replace Mrs. Marian McWilliams, who will retire at the end of this year. She has been a municipal employee or official for 20 years, the longest of any current employee.

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