

## today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 85 22 pages, 2 sections

## what's inside

### Is Letter Hoax?

A letter to the editor which claims to have been written by 26 Farmington Township policemen apparently is a hoax. Details on how the letter was prepared and decisions made by two area newspapers using it is reported inside.

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### Recalls Jimmy Small

If you were a Tiger fan in the mid-fifties, you know all about Jimmy Small. Don't you? Daniels Den includes lots of Tiger Teasers for the under-40 ball fan and knows that Reno is more than the gambling center of the U.S.

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### Death & Thefts

Your resource of local news inside today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer includes reports on: a Farmington woman killed when hit by a Farmington Township patrol car; a guest turned thief at an alleged pot party; and arrest of the pillow case bandit who's believed to have operated in the Farmington Area.

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### Big Celebration

A gentleman who is always on hand for red-letter days has one of his own coming up — a 50th wedding anniversary.

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### Backyard School

It was ecumenism at the grass stained level. Read the article on the backyard Bible schools for four to 11-year-olds sponsored by four different churches.

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### He's In Business On Your Street

The 50c you pay your Farmington Enterprise and Observer carrier each month encourages him to give good service, insuring success in his first business venture. Be sure to ask for a receipt, which will guarantee delivery of the Observer.



NEW REIGN — Miss Maria Zimmermann begins her new reign at 1970-71 Farmington Founders Festival queen as the crown is placed upon her head by Miss Cathy Stock, last year's queen. (Ralph Evert photo)

## Queen Maria Begins Reign

By LIZ WISSMAN

Talent... beauty... brains. Maria Zimmermann, crowned Thursday night as the 1970 Founders Festival queen, has these attributes in abundance.

Take beauty — Maria has smoky brown eyes that tilt up at the corner. She's tall and willowy. Her shining brown hair falls well below her shoulders. Her voice is low and husky, and in casual conversation is the sort of voice that sounds like it's telling secrets.

Take talent — Maria sings and plays the guitar. She is accomplished at judo (because "my mother thought I should learn it so I could protect myself"). She is a prize winning fencer, placing third in the junior olympics in that sport.

TAKE BRAINS — Maria is a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School and next year plans to attend college to begin undergraduate work for the study of psychiatry. Why psychiatry?

"To help people who are really mixed up," is Maria's answer.

When asked how she felt at being selected queen, Maria's first reaction was, "I'm thinking how beautiful it is out here with all the great people. All I can say is — how good, how good, how good."

Sponsored by the Farmington Insurance Agency, Maria shared honors Thursday night with Marsha Albright, Miss Bon Ton Shoppe, as first runner-up, and Barbara Robbins, Miss Thompson-Brown, as second runner-up.

Almost the first person to reach the stage after Maria was crowned was her mother, Mrs. Nander Zimmermann of 26269 Middle Belt, Farmington.

Her father doesn't even know the good news yet because he's up in Canada on a fishing trip.

And a letter is probably already on its way to Europe to tell her older brother who is traveling there this summer.

## Court Decision Could Cost Schools \$225,000

By EMORY DANIELS

The State Supreme Court decision last week requiring Ann Arbor Schools to furnish textbooks to students has the Farmington School District in a quandary.

The court ruled Ann Arbor could not sell texts to students but must furnish books free. Farmington officials are aware of the possibility and expect that the ruling will be applied statewide for all school districts.

IN FACT, administrators are already beginning to make plans on the assumption Farmington will be instructed to furnish free texts starting with school opening this fall.

If the district must supply free books to all students in September, preliminary estimates are it will cost a quarter of a million dollars to implement the change.

It would be a drastic policy shift because K-12 students attending Farmington Schools have paid for their own books since the district was first organized.

PRESENTLY, the district is awaiting official word on what the court's ruling entails and exactly what must schools

comply with. Local districts have received nothing in writing and the only information they have on the court reading is newspaper and television news reports.

Farmington school trustees met in executive secret session Monday night and discussed the many ramifications of the Supreme Court's ruling. But policy could not be established in the absence of any directives from authorities.

"We need advice from either the State Board of Education or the Oakland County Intermediate District," Business Manager William Prisk told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

"All we know is the court decided on a case in Ann Arbor which only gave directions to Ann Arbor on what must be done. It's safe to assume the ruling will apply statewide.

"But that ruling also instructed Ann Arbor Schools to provide certain supplies, but did not rule which supplies had to be furnished. Does it mean all supplies used by students in a school system must be furnished free by the district?"

THE LIST of supplies conceivably could include: pencils, paper, notebooks, workbooks, shop aprons, gym

suits and sneakers, swimsuits, towels, etc.

"The textbooks we can handle. It'll be tough but we'll do it by this fall if that's what the state says must be done. But supplies are an entirely different situation and that must be spelled out very carefully."

The cost to the district will depend upon whether free texts must be furnished starting in September or if the state allows a phased program, assuming the state will insist all districts must provide free books.

If free books must be provided by fall, says Prisk, a conservative estimate on the cost to Farmington is between \$200-\$230,000.

MONEY IS ONLY one problem, however. Another is that it is too late to order new books from the publishing houses which means for at least 1970-71 used books will have to be furnished students.

The district already has a large inventory of used books it owns because the district has purchased used books from last year's student body which it intended to resell this year.

"We own these books now and must put them to use," said Prisk. An inventory is presently being taken to determine the exact number of which texts the district has.

A problem to face will be how to decide which students get the books in poor condition and which get the newer books.

The books were inspected and rated from A-F when purchased. Books with missing covers or pages, excessive writings on the pages, or with obscene writings were rated "F" and not accepted by the book store. These were classified as being in "unsaleable condition."

Thus, the inventory the district has of used books does not include any with missing pages, excessive writing, or obscenities.

Some books, however, (rated E) are considered in very poor condition with very hard use, pages written on, unnumbered torn pages, but no missing pages.

The next classification (rated D) are considered in poor condition with hard use, torn pages mended, writing in book removed and no missing pages.

The rating procedure used by the book store when paying books for resale does insure that most used books will be in usable condition, said Prisk, although some will be in poor condition.

A OTHER IMPLICATION



INVENTORY — Jim Nietert is sorting books to help the bookstore take inventory of books on hand, just in case the district must begin furnishing free texts starting in September. (Evert photo)

There's no way to obtain additional millage because it's too late to place a proposal on the ballot for this year. The Legislature has already fixed the state aid formula and so there's no hope of financing the book program from Lansing.

The money must come from the present budget and that will involve some tough decisions for the school board. Obviously, some items must be trimmed from the budget if the district must furnish free texts starting in September.

How much must be trimmed and from which areas hinge on the outcome of teacher negotiations which are still in process.

BY REDUCING outlays for new equipment and trimming maintenance cost, the district has built up a small surplus to negotiate with employees.

State aid will provide a little more than estimated in the allocation budget and so the district has a surplus for employee monetary benefit hikes.

# BOOKSTORE

## HOURS

# 9 AM to 4 PM

HISTORICAL MARKER? — The sign at the entrance of the school district's bookstore in Farmington Junior High may become a historical marker, indicative of days past in Farmington Schools when students had to buy books. (Evert photo)