

# Community service - that's his imprint

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bred on the two acres that surround his Farmington Hills home. But he is still volunteering time and talents to his community.

Brown helped organize the Village of Wood Creek Farms, now a part of Farmington Hills. He served on the Farmington Board of Education 1952-56. He served as a trustee on the Farmington Township Board from 1967 to 1971. He chaired Oakland Community College's developing committee. He helped organize Farmington Friends of the Library. He chaired the Franklin Community Church Board of Trustees and was a lay leader in that church for five years.

He is a past president of Detroit Bar Association, served on a variety of committees for the State Bar of Michigan, served as president for Oakland County Lincoln Republican Club and once chaired the Republican Convention in Oakland County. He has volunteered to do legal work for the Farmington Historical Society.

NOW HE is giving his time and talents acting as legal consultant to the Southwest Oakland County Samaritan Center, which operates out of Knox House, owned by First Presbyterian Church of Farmington and sponsored by nine cooperating churches in the area.

"All I ever hoped to do was live a useful life," Brown said. "I volunteered to help if and when I thought I could be useful."

Brown joined a Detroit law firm after graduation from the University of Michigan Law School in 1928, but realized early on that his personality was better suited to being in private practice.

"I didn't care too much for some of the infighting between the partners, and I much prefer the challenge of solving problems on my own," he said. "I had a few offers to go into partnership, but it would have restricted me in so many ways. I ran for the Legislature a couple of times. Didn't make it (on the Re-

publican ticket) because we went down in the Roosevelt landslides. But I couldn't have done it if I was in a partnership. It was a good experience."

"I was the legal research man for Homer Ferguson, the one-man grand juror for Wayne County (in 1939 and 1940). I was a special assistant to the city attorney for Highland Park for a while. Represented Royal Oak Township Schools for a while. They were all nice deviations, all good challenges," he said.

BROWN NEVER practiced criminal law because he "never had a feeling for it."

He is now specializing in real

estate, probate, wills and trusts.

"Trial practice is a young man's game. It's very strenuous, very exciting and takes up a lot of nervous energy. I welcome these short hours I have been able to devote for myself here," he says from his office on Hamilton Court.

Between his practice and his volunteering, Brown spent his time as a poultry fancier, and reading.

Up until three years ago, Brown was a regular exhibitor at the Michigan State Fair. He never counted how many blue ribbons he was given for the chickens he bred, which were raised just for their color.

Over the years, he raised about 75 varieties.

"We killed and ate the culls and let the beauties die of old age," he said. "It was time demanding. I was up with them in the morning and with them every evening if it was 30 below or 120 in the shade. But it was healthy. It gave me a lot of light work to do out of doors. Now I've got a couple of dogs and a couple of cats to come home to."

READING STARTED for Brown in college "when there were too many courses I wanted to take, I didn't have time for," he said.

One of those courses was botany, a subject he studied for a year at the University of Hawaii until his penchant for law brought him back to Michigan.

The book that turned out to be the most significant for him was Herbert Ager's "The People's Choice," a chronicle of U.S. presidential administrations.

That book started his book collection and the reading of the presidents' biographies, in order, beginning with Washington.

"I'm up to Coolidge," he said.

Simultaneously, he read the biographies of American statesmen, beginning with Benjamin Franklin, and is up to Stephen Douglas.

Brown never reads for recreation, only education.

"I read 'Critique of Pure Reason,' pretty heavy stuff, but kept with it and if it didn't do me any good one way, it did in another. After reading that, I could go through 1,000 pages of a revenue code like a knife going through butter," he said.

Brown has lived at the same address in Farmington Hills with his wife, Barbara Ann, for 25 years. The couple have two daughters, Barbara Ann Travis, a resident of Montana, and Mary Fletcher, who lives in Missouri.

# Cities seeking other funding options

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But it's uncertain just how much help the Hills reappraisal will be because of legal limitations placed on the city's tax rate. "It depends. We will get increases on revenue because of that (reappraisal). Others maybe not. Because of Headlee (constitutional tax limitation) and 'truth-in-taxation,' we may have to roll back (the tax rate) to meet the Hills' state equalized valuation) is deemed purely inflationary."

When the federal program was born 14 years ago, municipalities were restricted in how to use the money, which was distributed pre-

dominantly on the basis of population and income. As the economic climate changed over the years, municipalities that used to use the money for capital improvements began using it for necessary services, Stuede said.

FARMINGTON AND Farmington Hills have been using federal shared revenue to help finance police services and salaries. The Hills also used the money to help pay for senior citizen programs.

"I don't anticipate with the loss of these funds that any of these programs will suffer financially," Rosch said.

With increased population in the Hills and a growing demand for local safety services, it's unreasonable to cut such services, he added.

Farmington too can rely, in part, on increases in the city's state equalized value to pick up some of the slack from the loss of federal payments.

In 1986-87, city officials picked up additional money with increased revenue and used part of the city's savings to balance the budget in light of the partial loss of the federal shared revenue, City Manager Robert Deadman said.

"We bit the bullet. We didn't ex-

pect it (federal shared revenue) and we didn't get it," Deadman said.

Farmington Hills spread its (October, 1986) payment over two budget years - 1986-87 and 1987-88. "You kind of wean yourself, rather than go cold turkey," Rosch said.

While cutting services does not appear to be a desirable option in Farmington or Farmington Hills, increasing the tax rates might. The Hills still has a one-quarter mill levy before reaching its 10-mill charter limit. Farmington has much greater leeway with a 20-mill charter limit and an operating tax rate of 10.76 mills and .98-mill for debt.

UNLIKE FARMINGTON Hills, which has a special five-year 0.5-mill tax for parks and recreation (that is not included within the charter limit), Farmington has no special millages.

The bottom line is that if your revenue source is reduced, you have to cut services or increase revenue," Deadman said.

Deadman and Rosch see the death of the federal shared revenue program as another facet of the federal government's move to increasingly force local government to rely on itself.

"I would feel a lot better about it if it helped the federal government cut its deficit," Deadman said. "Local government has lived within its revenue. We have laws that require us to do so."

Associated Press contributed to this report.

# Delay in kindergarten decision is sought

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teachers are up for it, but they're not allowed to talk about it," one parent added.

FEA President and kindergarten teacher Tom Chrzanoski, could not be reached Friday to comment about an official FEA position or to confirm the parental views.

Not only the kindergarten issue, but the idea of parent-rationing together to have a say in future school issues was discussed. Many supported the idea of a community council with representatives in each school building.

But for now, the focus remains on kindergarteners and the hardships parents, said might occur. If tank force ideas become reality.

Safety issues, emotional trauma, anxiety in changing to different

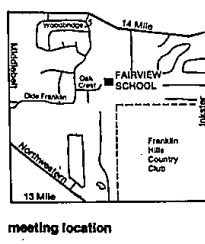
groups of friends, restricted gym time and restricted communication between kindergarten and first grade teachers were all points raised by parents at the meeting.

THE ELEMENTARY school setting faces younger children "an opportunity to start to learn rules - the structure of academia," Har-nisch said.

Most of the parents said they are not advocating the current "buses and paper" type programs currently used at the kindergarten level, but feel the role modeling provided by the older children in an elementary is important.

A major concern voiced at the meeting was the speed with which such a policy might be implemented. "It's a drastic change in the overall system - to have it presented and adopted within a month," said one resident, who no longer has children in school. "It's basically wrong to effect a policy in the way they are."

The Feb. 17 board study session will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairview Early Childhood Center, 38500 Oak Crest. The kindergarten issue - and the entire scope of early childhood education - is slated to be discussed. Fairview is in the Old Franklin Towne subdivision north of Northwestern Highway, east of Middlebelt.



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