

The Farmington Enterprise

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CITY CHARTER ADOPTED AND OFFICERS ELECTED

Farmington as a city had an election last Monday that caused its citizens to sit up and take notice. For many years village elections have come and gone without causing the slightest ripple of excitement among its citizenry. The annual event was a matter of small importance to the large majority of the voters. Where a few hitherto gathered in the name of the electorates to determine the course of municipal affairs on Monday 227 voters visited the polls to take a hand in pointing the way.

The first question settled by the electorate was that Farmington is a fulfilled city of the fifth class by adopting by a 3 to 1 vote the charter formulated by the commission elected for that purpose at a special election held last fall.

With this matter disposed of they proceeded to choose a set of officers to operate under its provisions. While no particular efforts were made to secure office by candidates who had been placed in nomination by friends it is evident from the results that the voters were preparing for some surprises.

There is an estimated voting strength of about 400 in Farmington city. The 227 vote of Monday was the most positive expression of the voters in many years. There were quite a number of women among those who voted.

Vote on adoption of City Charter:
For.....166
Against.....60

Majority.....106
Considerable interest was manifested by the spectators at the counting of the ballots on the vote for city officers.

The following is the result:

For Mayor—
Wells D. Butterfield.....116-13
Howard M. Wagner.....103

For Clerk—
Ralph Auten.....95
Nathan H. Power.....125-30

Treasurer—
George Gilmeister.....213

No opposition

Assessor—
Arthur Lamb.....150-79
Floyd Nichols.....71

Commissioners—
Fred L. Cook.....189
Clarence W. Bickling.....145
Leo Gilmeister.....180
E. O. Hatten.....158
Carl Hogle.....176
Harrison Johnson.....162
Olin Russell.....185

* Elected for long term.

* Elected for short term.

Members Board of Review—
James L. Hagle.....168
Herman A. Schroeder.....154
Mark Wixon.....79

Two highest elected.

Justice of the Peace—
Ben Meyers.....145
W. N. Miller.....129
John Schulte, Jr.....108

Two highest elected, Mr. Meyer to long term.

Constables—
George Grant and Herman Kragger were elected without opposition.

There were a few scattering votes for several offices and a few voters lost their votes on commissioners by placing a cross before each candidate on the ballot, when but six should have been voted for.

EXCHANGE CLUB NOTES.

At Tuesday's noonday luncheon the members of the Exchange club listened to a talk by W. J. Ryan, chief of the income tax division of the Internal Revenue office at Detroit. He explained clearly the changes in the new income tax law and answered many questions which are perplexing tax payers.

The committee on transportation reported that at a conference with Detroit City Railway officials it was learned that nothing could be done at present in the way of extending city car service to Farmington, as there was now a shortage of cars for the city service, but that in another year arrangements might be made for extending service to Farmington.

At next week's luncheon Rev. Dunlavy will be the speaker.

MORE LIGHT ON ROAD EXPENDITURES

The digging into the costs to the taxpayers of constructing fourteen miles of paving on Grand River avenue from Farmington to the west county line has resulted in the prying open of the lid that had been clamped down on the expense account in the state department covering other roads.

James P. Powers, a Detroit Free Press staff correspondent is making notable progress in worming into the secrets of the state highway's expense accounts.

From Flint he sends to his paper the following account of what he has found in the Genesee county records relative to the cost of state constructed roads in that county.

"Genesee county claims the most expensive state highway in Michigan, and in support of its contention has records to show that it cost \$74,980.56 per mile, a total of \$45,771.92 more than is provided. While the cost by the state is not a negligible figure, the state highway department.

"Until the extravagance of the state project in Genesee became public, Oakland county appeared the possessor of Michigan's most costly thoroughfare, fourteen miles of Grand River avenue following the old roadbed and without any unusual grades or fills, according to the county road commission, costing more than \$52,000 per mile, \$21,000 more than the original state estimates. In a recent statement, the state highway department represented average concrete highway costs at about \$33,000 per mile.

"The Grand River road was a new construction. The Genesee job was not. The eight miles in Genesee, located on the Dixie Highway, and not including pavement within the limits of Grand Blanc village, were not newly built by the state. The road was resurfaced, making the \$74,980.56 cost per mile the more astonishing.

"On both of these road projects, state convicts were employed as laborers, earning \$1.25 per day against an average cost of approximately \$5 that is paid by private contractors to their labor.

"For some unexplainable reason, Governor A. J. Groesbeck, the state administrative board, the state highway department and the state accounting division have kept these costs secret along with all of the other records of the highway department. The state highway fund in 1925 amounted to approximately \$25,000,000, including \$2,250,000 of federal aid monies.

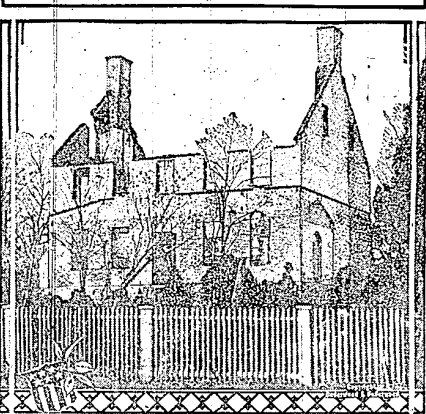
"While the administration has refused to issue any accounting of its expenditures of approximately \$100,000,000 since the Groesbeck administration has been in office, these counties of Genesee and Oakland have also failed to obtain any itemized accounting of the costs of the roads in the expense of which they participated to the extent of 25 per cent.

"The failure of the administration to open up the records of the highway department, which is now understood to have a huge deficit, is regarded over the state as surprising in view of the fact that the governor is expected to ask the legislature in special session Tuesday to make additional monies available for highway department spending this year.

"The cost of the section of the Dixie in Genesee county were billed to the county on the basis that all counties are required to participate in state road construction expense, but the full amount was not collected by the state. When the county had paid approximately two-thirds of the total amount set up by the state as the county's share, the account was mutually regarded as closed.

"The state set-up of expense on the job was contained in a plea from the state to the county road commission to rush at least \$5,000 to Lansing as the money was badly needed there. At that time, the county had paid \$32,826.60. The statement listed \$149,961.12 as the county's share of the Dixie contract. If this set-up was accurate, and there is no reason to suppose otherwise, the total cost

Early Home of Washington



Hayfield plantation near Alexandria, Va., the home of George Washington before the Revolution, lost its old English boxwood garden which was laid out by George Washington. Miss Evelyn Smith of New York city has reproduced the garden at Amawalk, Westchester county, N. Y., as a memorial to her father, Maj. Orlando Jay Smith. Photograph shows the old place in ruins, the old boxwood hedge being removed.

FARMINGTON WOMAN'S CLUB

The Farmington Woman's Club met Wednesday, February 17 with Mrs. Anna Cook. After the usual order of business the meeting was turned over to a committee consisting of Mesdames Steele Pierce and Chamberlain. The day was the "Fun Day" of the year and we all agreed it was fun to be there.

A dark colored footman attended at the door, gave instructions as where to purchase tickets, etc. and announced the program.

The committee arranged a moving picture entitled "The Bachelor's Dilemma," put on by an all star cast. Soft music from a pipe organ was heard in the distance. The "Bachelor's" rooms showed the usual disorder of a man without a wife, he having only a lady maid to wait upon him. Becoming tired of this way of living he advertised for a wife and had numerous applicants. The widow with two small daughters, a Swede, the too dark lady, the girl with the dark complexion but who could dance and even the strictly up to date flapper, were all dismissed. It was then that the much improved maid returned and with her sweet winning smile captured his heart and so all ended happily. It was indeed a day of fun.

Arrangements are under way for a costume ball to be given by the club in the spring.

The place of meeting will be announced next week.

Josephine McGee, Sec'y.

N. E. HOWARD

N. E. Howard passed away at his home on Oakland avenue, Farmington, after two weeks illness. The deceased was born on the old Howard homestead in West Farmington on September 16, 1859. He leaves, besides his wife to mourn his loss, five daughters, Mrs. R. J. Hennessy, of Redford, Mrs. John Bedson, of Farmington Junction, Miss Elizabeth Howard, of Plymouth, Mrs. Floyd Leavenworth, of Howell and Miss Jeanette Howard at home. Also one brother, L. N. Howard, of Farmington, on sister, Mrs. James Ellis, of Midland, Mich., several grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and a host of friends.

Funeral services will be held at the home on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. E. W. Palmer officiating. Interment at West Farmington Cemetery.

COMING AUCTIONS

Herman Teskha, horses, cows, tools and implements, Thursday, February 25.

William Spaller, cows, tools and implements, Monday, March 1.

BAPTIST FATHER AND SON BANQUET

There will be a "sing" when Dad and Dad lend their voices next Friday evening, February 19, at 7:30 o'clock.

Fred Wilkinson will act as toastmaster and short talks will be given by Leroy Taggart, Gordon Way, A. C. McDonald and E. W. Palmer, the pastor.

Special Father and Son service Sunday night. The pastor will speak on the subject, "Family Religion or Where is the Home?"

WANT TEN MILE ROAD PAVED

Members of the Oakland county road commission and county supervisors were, banqueted, Monday, at Pontiac by District Number 103 Club, composed of owners of property lying along the Ten Miles road in Southfield and Farmington townships who are anxious to have the county pave that road from Southfield to Orchard Lake road.

It was now paved from Southfield to Woodward avenue. Petitions for this improvement have been circulated but the supervisors would have to approve them before steps could be taken to construct it this year. On account of the amount of road building already outlined, it is doubtful if approval will be given the Ten Mile pavement this year and no action was taken on it by the board yesterday.

CHARLES RUTENBAR

Charles Rutenbar passed away February 13 at St. Mary's Hospital after an illness of two weeks, following an appendicitis operation.

Mr. Rutenbar was born 1874. He leaves to mourn a bereaved widow, three sons, Harry, Bert, and Charles, Jr., two daughters, Mrs. Elsie Fend and Mrs. Evelyn Rutenbar, an aged mother of Detroit, four brothers, Herman, William and Albert of Livonia and Edward of Detroit, three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Westlake and Mrs. Emma Wright of Redford and Mrs. Eva Fend of Farmington beside a host of friends and neighbors.

The funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. from St. Paul's Church of Livonia with burial at Grand Lawn cemetery. Rev. Peters of Wayne officiating.

MRS. IDA SPERRY

Mrs. Fred Sperry, formerly Ida Furber of Farmington, passed away Sunday evening at her home 655 Sheridan avenue, Detroit. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Sperry was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Furber who were prominent residents of Farmington. She married Fred Sperry, a Farmington citizen. She leaves a husband, one son, George Sperry of Detroit and a brother, Horace Furber of Benton Harbor, Mich.

MRS. FORD TO BUILD MEMORIAL BUILDING

Mrs. Henry Ford has completed the purchase of 120 feet of frontage at Grand River avenue and Division road, the last unit in the block on which stood the home in which she was born. She proposes to erect there a memorial building, such as a church or library, which will be of benefit to the community.

The entire block was purchased lot by lot, at a fast as occupants could be persuaded to sell. The last one was owned by Richard Blanchfield, of Ann Arbor, who was paid \$83,000 for it.

The nature of the building has not yet been decided on, but Mrs. Ford intends to erect a structure that will beautify the intersection of the highways as well as be of value to the public.

Mr. Wm. T. Gregory, agent for the Ford Motor Company looked after Mrs. Ford's interests, and Mary T. Doherty, manager for The Pan-American Soil Company of Farmington, represented the seller.

DAD AND A \$3000 DRESS

Two unusual services will be held in the Clarenceville Methodist Episcopal Church next Sunday, in the evening at 7:30 the pastor will preach on "A Girl Who Was Sold for Wine." This sermon will deal with the modern phases of the prohibition problem.

In the morning at 10:30 by request, the topic will be "Dad and a Three Thousand Dollar Dress." This will be a Father and Son and Daughter service. Appropriate musical selections will be rendered.

The story of Dad and the Three Thousand Dollar Dress is one of more than usual interest. It involves a thoughtless selfish wife and a very perplexed husband, also a wayward boy and some thrilling adventures, and a costly kiss, a peeved and sulky relative, and several other absorbing interest.

All who are not affiliated with some other church will do well to hear about by being at the Clarenceville Church promptly at 10:30 next Sunday. All the characters of the story find their counterpart in Clarenceville, Farmington, Redford and the district thereabouts. The religious significance of the story is of vital concern to everybody. Every mother is urged to bring a girl and every father, a boy. All the seats are free and hymnals are provided. For several Sundays past the attendance of men has been greater than women.

The annual Father and Son banquet will be held Monday, February 22.

NORTHVILLE NOW HAS HANDSOME THEATRE

As regards modern playhouses, Northville is now in the first rank, the recently completed Penman-Allen Theatre, built by Mrs. Kate Allen and Harry Lusk, owners of the Penman-Allen at Plymouth, placing it there. The citizens of that village are proud of it as an institution and pleased to know that there are those who have sufficient faith in the community's future to warrant the large expenditure necessary in its construction. All Northville turned out at the opening nights last week. Many from Farmington and vicinity attended.

Describing the new playhouse, the Northville Record of last week says:

"On every hand are evidences of substantiality and permanency of convenience and comfort. Not one thing has been slighted from the front entrance to the back stage doors. The new building is as near fire proof as it is possible to make it and everything about the equipment and furnishings are of the very best. Nothing has been slighted or cheapened—it is really just the kind of a building one would expect Mrs. Allen and Harry Lusk to erect. It is rich, cheerful and wholesome throughout and its enterprising builders are to be commended for their efforts to provide Northville with a theatre in which all our citizens can feel a personal pride. The brilliantly lighted balcony over the entrance gives a cheery

AMERICAN LEGION DETROIT MEETING

Arrangements are now completed for the quarterly meeting of the Sixth District American Legion convention here tonight, Friday.

The following is the program: 5:00 p. m.—Business meetings. 6:30—Dinner. Invocation.....Rev. J. Bollens Song Address of Welcome.....W. D. Butterfield

Introducing toastmaster.....Chas. B. Elkins

Toastmaster.....Col. A. H. Gansser

Department Commander.....J. J. Joseph Herbert

Children's Bilet.....Ann Cross

Remarks.....A. G. Leonard

Auxiliary.....Mrs. Stitt

40 and 8.....James Davidson

American Legion.....Col. A. H. Gansser

Dance at Town Hall at 9.

A REAL OLD TIME DANCE

The entertainment committee of the Clarenceville Cemetery Association is preparing for a dance at Farmington town hall on the evening of February 25 that is intended to be a true reflex of the dancing spirit of a quarter of a century ago. The music will be furnished by John Timham, Ike Crocker and Volney Gunning who in those days played at the Botsford Inn dances which were social events of that period.

MOTHER OF DR. BURTON BURIED AT FARMINGTON

The remains of Mrs. Jane Burton Gilgen, mother of the late Dr. M. L. Burton, president of the University of Michigan, were brought from Iowa to Northville and buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington, last Friday. Services were conducted by Rev. William Richards of the Northville M. E. Church.

Mrs. Gilgen resided with her parents near where when a girl and was twice married.

The body was accompanied by her son, C. E. Burton of New York City.

C. W. BICKING VICE-PRES. NEW OIL COMPANY

After seven years' connection with the Greenslade Oil Co., Clarence W. Bicking of this city severe his relation with that concern to become associated with a group of Detroit citizens in the organization of the Mich-Pen Oil & Grease Co., of Detroit, in which company he has been made vice-president. Mr. Bicking will be connected with the sales department and will continue to reside here.

HUGH McDERMOTT

The death of Hugh McDermott occurred Sunday at his home near Five Points. Funeral services were held Thursday morning at St. Mary's Church. Burial at Grand Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. McDermott was an uncle to Clyde McDermott and Miss Minnie Toomey of Farmington.

COUNTY SKATING TOURNAMENT

The following is the program for the first annual Oakland County Skating Tournament for grade and school students at Walled Lake Saturday, February 27, at 2:30 p. m., which will be given under the auspices of Walled Lake Consolidated School and Walled Lake Exchange Club:

- 2:30—Boys race under 12 years, 1/4 mile.
- 2:40—Girls race under 12 years, 1/4 mile.
- 2:50—100 yd. dash, boys under 20 years.
- 3:00—Boys race under 14 years, 1/4 mile.
- 3:10—Girls race under 14 years, 1/4 mile.
- 3:20—22 yd. dash, boys under 20 years.
- 3:30—Boys race under 16 years, 1/2 mile.
- 3:40—Girls race under 16 years, 1/4 mile.
- 3:50—Boys race under 20 years, 1 mile.
- 4:00—Girls race under 20 years, 1/2 mile.
- Barrel jumping—open.
- A cup for the winning high school. Individual prizes for winners.