

Farmington Enterprise

FORTIETH YEAR—No. 12.

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1928

5 Cents Single Copy; \$1.50 a Year

PURCHASE OF NEW FIRE ENGINE IS PLANNED BY CITY

Commission Votes For Committee To Secure Prices On New Apparatus

The purchase of new fire equipment to augment the present apparatus and afford Farmington full protection from fire is probable in the near future. The City Commission, at a special meeting Monday night voted appointment of a committee to inaugurate a plan for purchasing a new fire engine.

Harold Oldenburg, who usually drives the fire truck, stated to members of the Commission that the volunteers have been discouraged by the slowness and inadequacy of the present equipment. He said that the truck could not average faster than ten miles an hour, and that "every one else on the way to a fire passes us before we get there."

It was pointed out that the present truck is nearly ten years old, and that its original cost was about \$3,150, indicating that Farmington had secured fire protection at a low cost per year. Commissioner Carl Hogle, during the discussion, suggested that it would be best to drop all plans for changing the present apparatus and use the money toward buying up-to-date apparatus of sufficient speed and capacity to cope with any fire that might be expected.

The committee is to ascertain how much can be obtained on a trade-in of the present truck, but there is some sentiment in favor of retaining the old apparatus to have it available in case of an unusually large fire, or in case the new one should break out at once.

CORNER ON GRAND RIVER IS THE THIRD BUSIEST IN COUNTY

Report Shows 17,114 Vehicles Passed Corner In 24 Hours Last August

Grand River avenue at Farmington Junction is the third busiest spot in Oakland County in terms of traffic, according to a traffic census contained in the report of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for 1927.

On Sunday, August 14, 1927, the day the census was taken, 17,114 vehicles passed this intersection in 24 hours. Of this number, 15,145 were Michigan autos, 466 were automobiles from other states and 121 were buses. Trucks under 1½ tons numbered 212, while trucks over that capacity totaled 108. There were also 57 trailers.

In the tabulation for the county, Woodward avenue at Ferndale and St. Bloomfield street retained the first and second places which they earned in the previous year's census. The total number of vehicles which passed the busiest corner was 45,512.

In 1925 the Grand River census was taken at Novi, and that point was third in volume of traffic at that time.

Those who added up the various figures in the Farmington Junction list will find it a few short of the total. This represents the number of horse-drawn vehicles that passed the Junction in hours, while the 17,100 motor-propelled vehicles were going by.

NEW KUNSKY-REDFORD THEATRE TO BE OPENED FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 27

Friday evening, 7:00 o'clock (January 27), has been officially set as the gala opening time of the new Kuskus-Redford Theatre, Grand River and Lahser road. The opening date was originally set for the 25th, but delays in arrival of certain special pairs to be used in the Japanese interior decorations caused the postponement. The new date eliminates Miss Ruth Lee Taylor, the famous "Goddess of Gentleness" who was to have taken part in the "Blonde" for one day only. Thursday ceremonies, she being day, the 26th. Roy Burgess of Redford will make a speech at the opening of the new theatre.

Tr Enterprise Want Ads.

TOWNSHIP ALSO TREATS ITS CITIZENS GENTLY—TAX TIME EXTENDED

Citizens of Farmington township as well as those of the city of Farmington have a reason to rejoice. The township board at its last meeting voted to extend the time for paying taxes without penalty from February 1 to February 15.

The City Commission recently extended the time for its taxpayers from January 9 to February 1, but as yet there has been no indication of a further extension.

SPECIAL ELECTION IN SPRING LIKELY

City Charter Requires Clearing Up Officials' Say; April 2 Is Date

A special city election, along with the regular state primary election on April 2, in the City of Farmington is considered probable by city officials. The election is viewed as advisable to clear up certain ambiguities in the charter.

The city charter, although unusually fine of the inconsistencies which often creep into such documents, presents a number of difficulties in the matter of governing the city.

One example given is the status of the treasurer's office. The treasurer takes office in April, according to the charter, but in the charter it is also provided that the city's fiscal year shall end in June. Thus an incoming city treasurer, instead of having the usual advantage of taking office with a previous year's work completed and an entirely new period of his own to work on, is forced to take over a part of the former treasurer's work, and the latter is also unable to complete his records.

Other difficulties which are small, but at the same time make the handling of city business rather inconvenient for the officials, will be reviewed within the coming two months, and placed on the ballots to be rectified by vote of the people on primary election day.

JAMES B. HALSTED DIES FOLLOWING A LONG ILLNESS

Well-Known Citizen of Farmington, Prominent Horticulturist, Buried Thursday

James B. Halsted, 54, of Farmington, passed away Monday afternoon after a long illness.

He was born on the old farm now owned by his brother, Charles, on the 16th of April, 1873, being the oldest son of the late Harvey and Mary Matthews Halsted. He spent his boyhood days on the farm of his birth and attended the District School at West Farmington, being later graduated from the Michigan State Normal College. He also attended the Ferris Institute at Big Rapids.

After teaching a few years in some of the local district schools, he formed a partnership with his father and, his brother Charles, for several years. They were the leading horticulturist and apple growers of Oakland County. He married Frances A. Watts in 1905 and continued his residence on the farm until poor health compelled him to give up farming and horticulture and he moved to his present home in 1920, that he might be more convenient to medical aid. Mr. Halsted bore his illness with exceptional patience and fortitude.

He spent part of one year, accompanied by his family, in Florida in the hope of finding a climate that would improve his health. He leaves his wife, Frances, one daughter, Lucille, and two sons, Gage and Lloyd. Services were arranged to be held at the residence Thursday afternoon, with Rev. F. D. Burgess officiating, followed by burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Mrs. A. McGee, who is spending the winter in Pontiac, called on Mr. and Mrs. T. H. McGee Sunday.

CITY COMMISSION AGREES ON LEASE OF STADIUM SITE

99-Year Lease Declared Unnecessary, 20-Year Term Is Favored

Following a meeting held last Thursday night a committee of Farmington's City Commission and the district Board of Education are preparing to start work on the drawing of a lease of land in Waterworks Park, owned by the city, to the school district, for the purpose of development as an athletic park. The lease will probably be for 20 years.

The agreement between the two bodies was reached after Superintendent of Schools Archie G. Leonard reported that he had learned that the school district on the drawing of a lease of land to the school district, previously believed necessary, would not be required. Superintendent Leonard stated that he had obtained an opinion to the effect that the district school board could proceed to improve the ground without having a lease of so long duration. Twenty years appeared to be accepted by most members of both boards as a desirable period for the running of the lease.

Mayor Wells D. Butterfield was chosen to represent the city and Floyd Nichols the Board of Education. The two are to work with Judge John J. Schulte, corporation counsel, and will probably select another attorney who specializes in municipal affairs. The procedure decided upon is that the committee shall draw up a lease, to be passed on by the City Commission. The City Commission, when the lease has been accepted to that body, will present it to the Board of Education as the final action on the city is willing to grant the lease.

During the discussion several phases of the park's development were discussed, among them the parking problem during athletic contests. Mayor Butterfield emphasized the desire that the beauty of the place be maintained. Superintendent Leonard replied that he believed the interests of the city and the school district identical, or nearly so, and that it is the School Board's intention to keep the place a beautiful one. He suggested that it be called an "athletic park," to convey the idea that it would furnish an opportunity for recreation in addition to athletic contests.

Mayor Butterfield and Commissioners Staman, Gildemeister, Hogle and Bickling of the City Commission and Superintendent Leonard and Messrs. Nichols, Macomber, Cook and Lamb of the Board of Education were present.

TALK ON BOOKS TO BE GIVEN AT WEST POINT PARK

P. T. A. Plans Interesting Meeting In Connection With "Book Week"

The Pierson School Parent-Teacher Association will hold its next meeting the evening of February 8, at 8 o'clock in the West Point Park Community Hall.

This meeting is to take the form of a birthday celebration of the association. There is to be a birthday cake and a program is being arranged which will carry out the birthday atmosphere. A pot luck supper will be served. Miss Edith Thomas, of the Library Extension Service of the University of Michigan will speak on "Adventures in Reading." The week of February 3rd to February 10th is "Book Week" in West Point Park.

A number of books from the University library will be on exhibit at the school during that week. Everyone is invited to come and see them.

Superintendent of Schools Archie G. Leonard, of Farmington, has been chosen as one of the judges in what is generally considered in forensic circles the foremost debating match among Michigan high school debaters to be held at the Lansing-Arbor high school debate Friday night.

The debate will be held in Ann Arbor, and will be on the direct primary question. Ann Arbor last year won the Michigan High School debating championship.

NEW WORK IS FAMILIAR



Dan A. McGaffey, Oakland County's new Judge of Probate, finds much that is familiar about his new work, since he succeeded the late Judge Reas Stockwell. Having been register for a number of years, Judge McGaffey gained a wide knowledge of probate work before his appointment.

HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE SUNDAY

Family Loses All In Blaze On Orchard Lake Road; Chimney Is Cause

Fire that is believed to have started from a defective chimney destroyed the home of Hans Hafemeister, on Orchard Lake road near 13-Mile road, Sunday morning. Practically all of the clothing and furniture belonging to the Hafemeister family was burned.

The fire started near the roof and the Hafemeister family and neighbors labored about 20 minutes to put it out with water. They failed to check the blaze, and when the Farmington fire department arrived, the house was beyond saving. Chemicals were used with but little effect.

Mr. and Mrs. Hafemeister, who were in the house, with their two children, escaped. In saving part of the effects on the first floor. The lost everything that was on the second floor, however. Hafemeister's home is located in Oakland Hills Orchards. Since the fire, the Hafemeister family has been staying temporarily with the family of Arthur Coe. Women living in the vicinity gathered during the early part of the week to see the Hafemeisters and aid them in rehabilitating their home.

FROM PRESIDENT TO CLERK, THEN BACK AGAIN, GOES POWER

Head Of Board Of Education Changes Position Twice At Meeting

Many have risen from the position of clerk to president, but the experience of N. H. Power, of Farmington, last Thursday night is probably unique. Mr. Power not only reversed the order of dynamic success, but went in the opposite direction and then traced his course, all within a few minutes. President to clerk and back to president again is his record.

When the Board of Education and the City Commission of Farmington went into joint session to discuss the proposed athletic field lease Mr. Power as president of the Board of Education, presided. After discussion, an agreement was reached, and it was decided that the city commission should meet at once to choose their representative. Mayor Butterfield called the meeting to order. President Power became Clerk Power, and amid hearty laughter, the Mayor said, "Call the roll Mr. Clerk, it's now eight twenty-five."

The City's business completed the Commission adjourned, where upon the School Board reconvened and Clerk N. H. Power again became President Power.

Least it be feared that in changing from president to clerk, Mr. Power suffered a loss of prestige, it might be stated that as City Clerk Mr. Power receives a salary greater than all the members of the City Commission and the Board of Education combined. He gets \$540 a year.

JOHN HARGER, A FORMER RESIDENT, IS VERY ILL

Friends of John Harger, Detroit attorney, and well-known in this section, will regret to learn of his serious illness. He is in Deaconess Hospital, Detroit.

One Dead, 3 Ill At Children's Hospital Here; Corn Blamed

Spoiled Flour In Pancakes Believed Cause Of Illness And Death At Convalescent Home Of Children's Hospital Of Michigan

One man died and two women and another man, all employees of the Convalescent Home of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, just outside of Farmington on Grand River avenue, were made seriously ill Wednesday following a supper which the quartet prepared for themselves Tuesday night at the Home. Reese Fox, also known as William Jones, ambulance driver, died Wednesday night and Agnes Hubbell, practical nurse, is in a critical condition, while Isabel Hooey, also a nurse, and Dan Rogers, fireman, appear to have recovered from their illness. Pancakes made from corn meal, which is believed to have been spoiled, has been blamed for the illness and death.

The four are understood to have made a lunch for themselves about midnight Tuesday. Part of their supper consisted of corn cake, hospital officials could ascribe their illness to no other food contained in the supper.

It was emphasized that the supper was out of the regular routine of hospital meals, and an earlier report that children had been made ill, was disproven by hospital authorities.

Miss Hubbell, the only victim whose condition remains serious, is still in danger. She and Miss Hooey are at the Children's Hospital in Detroit. Rogers has completely recovered, officials of the Home stated.

Jones, who died Tuesday night, is believed to have suffered from a heart weakness, which is also understood to affect Miss Hubbell's condition. Jones' body was removed to Pontiac by Coroner O. C. Farmer, who later released it. Jones' home was in Kentucky. He had been employed by the Home for several years. He was 28 years old.

The pancakes were said to have been made by Rogers, who is said to have been warned by Margaret Pierce, the cook, when she gave him the corn meal, that it was spoiled.

All four of the victims took sick late Wednesday afternoon, and Jones died about three hours later. Prosecutor Clyde W. Woodward and Coroner O. C. Farmer were called to the Home Wednesday night.

DEPUTY SUGGESTS PARKING RULES TO CITY COMMISSION

Governing Body Defers Action On Recommendations; Hour Limit Asked

Farmington's City Commission, wrestling with the problem of parking in the business section, received on Monday evening a series of recommendations given a committee by Deputy City Clerk Clayton Stokes, but deferred action on them. The recommendations were offered as a solution for double parking, parking throughout the day, and other difficulties which have been vexing and puzzling the governing body.

Deputy Stokes recommended that double parking be prohibited on Grand River avenue, and that to make this possible, a time-limit be placed on parking along the main highway. He advocated the purchase of signs which would inform the motorist of such regulations, and the placing in consultation of a parking lot, that motorists warned of the parking limit might be directed to a place in which to park their machines for any length of time they chose.

Deputy Stokes also recommended that single parking on the east side of Division street be eliminated, and that cars be ordered parked parallel on that side of the street.

The Commissioners expressed divergent opinions on the recommendations, and no action was taken. The majority seemed opposed to the expenditure of money to put in shape the parking lot opposite Farmington Mills, on State street, which was offered the city some time ago.

Commissioners Hogle and Gildemeister, who presented the recommendations, were asked to again confer with Deputy Stokes and the matter will probably be taken up again at an early meeting.

News items are always welcome.

Active work by the Farmington Exchange Club to aid the paving program proposed for the city got under way Wednesday, when a committee of three was appointed to work with the City Commission and act in an advisory capacity on the movement for paving. President Frank Weaver chose John Fitzpatrick, Floyd Nichols, and Howard Warner as the committee to push the paving program through. It is expected that they will meet with the City Commission committee, consisting of Commissioners Hogle, Bickling and Johnson in the near future. To also aid the city in securing better fire protection, and show the volunteer firemen the citizens' appreciation of their efforts the Exchange Club voted to tender the volunteers a dinner. The date and details of the dinner will be announced later.

The safety committee reported that the Detroit Automobile Club had suggested a Safety Patrol for Farmington schools, and the club voted its approval of forming of such a patrol.

Carl Hogle was chosen to represent the Exchange Club at the banquet to be given in honor of General John J. Pershing in Detroit Friday.