

Farmington Enterprise

FORTIETH YEAR—No. 23.

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1928

12 PAGES

5c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

Farmington Man Injured As Auto Hits Freight-Car

Kenneth Loomis' Car Wrecked At St. Louis; Ransiers Hurt On Farmington Road

Residents of Farmington and Clarenceville had narrow escapes from serious injury or death last Friday and Saturday in two motor accidents which resulted in severe shaking up of the occupants of the cars, and extensive damage to the machines.

Kenneth Loomis, Farmington business-man, is recuperating from cuts on the head, bruises and shock suffered last early Sunday morning when his car crashed into a freight-car at the end of a dead-end street in St. Louis, Mich. Loomis was rendered unconscious for a long time, and his car was almost a complete wreck.

The Farmington man left Saturday night after business hours to drive to Alma. Because of the conditions of the roads, he was forced to take a route with which he was unfamiliar. Arriving at St. Louis about 1:30 a. m., he came to a fork in the road, believing it to be a through road. It proved to be a "blind" street, at the end of which was a railroad track. A box-car stood on the track, and Loomis' machine crashed into it.

The entire front end of the car, a new Ford coupe, including the radiator, motor-block, frame, transmission case, and windshield were damaged but Loomis, though knocked unconscious in some places, escaped more serious injury. After an unknown period, he recovered consciousness and started to look for help. Shock, however, forced him to lie down, and in his dazed condition, he lay down between the rails on the railroad track.

Some time later he again started for town to secure aid, and arrived in the business section of St. Louis at about 4 o'clock, two or three hours after the accident. His car was towed to the Ford Garage at Farmington Sunday and is being repaired. Loomis has as yet been unable to resume his work.

Miss Earl Ransier and two daughters were hurt, one seriously, when another machine struck their car on Farmington road near the Nine-Mile road, over the Ransier's sedan. Kathy Ransier was very seriously cut about the head and left ear, and Mrs. Ransier and Ruth, another daughter was shaken up.

Walter G. Preston, driver of the car, which struck the Ransier machine, pleaded guilty to reckless driving when arraigned Monday before Judge John J. Shulte Jr. He was sentenced to 90 days, sentence being suspended on his promise to pay for the damage to the Ransier machine.

PIERSON SCHOOL TEACHER ACHIEVES UNUSUAL HONORS

Miss Robbie Tinsley, Principal, Asked To Write Article For State Journal

Unusual distinction has come to the principal of the Pierson School, Miss Robbie Tinsley, within the past few days. Leaders in Wayne County schools have asked her to lend aid in putting into practice in other schools some of the successful methods she is using in the Pierson School.

Mrs. Sharpe, County Supervisor of Nurses, has requested Tinsley to write an article concerning her means of presenting "Health and Biology in High School," for publication in State Educational Journal and State Health Journal. Mrs. Sharpe considers the work done by Miss Tinsley at Pierson school, the best she has encountered in her experience. Miss Tinsley has also been selected by County school officials to give her opinion upon some text-books to be adopted in the county next year. Only six teachers in service are asked to do this, the request being considered high recognition along this line. Mr. Brooker, of Chicago, a text-book authority, spent a portion of Tuesday in conference with Miss Tinsley on some of the new books being considered.

At the West Point Park Pierson School Board on April 3, Miss Margaret Schrandt of Flat Rock was employed as primary teacher for the coming year. Miss Schrandt is an especially well-

Best Sign Of Spring Arrives! Cop On Cycle

The sweet sign of Spring has appeared in Farmington. In the modern day it is not the song of the robin or the first warm day, but the "put-put-put" of the motorcycle on which rides the officer of the law.

Deputy Clayton Stokes has begun his daily patrolling on a new machine, one of ten obtained by the county for its officers. The size of the territory assigned to the officers stationed here requires many hours of patrolling daily.

Work Is Begun On Grand River

Materials And Buildings Placed Along Right-of-Way; New Road Bed Ready

Indications that the State will not lose any time in widening Grand River avenue between Redford and Farmington, this summer are readily apparent in the preparations already under way. During the past few days large quantities of supplies have been laid down along the highway, and houses to accommodate workmen and tools have been erected.

More than a score of men have been at work on the new road-bed within the past few days and work has proceeded with great rapidity.

Tearing down of the Eckler & Durham Garage at Fourth Gate, necessitated by the widening of the road, has been under way for some time. The first lot to be occupied a new building in the rear of the present structure.

The new road-bed on the south side of the river tracks appears almost ready for laying of concrete. The steel reinforcing frames have been laid at various points along the road-bed.

It is expected that the actual work of laying the new road on the south side will begin shortly, to be followed by the tearing up of the old road and re-laying of new concrete on the wider right-of-way. It is anticipated that the work will be carried through to Farmington Junction as a single job, and right-of-way men of the State Department are expected to start soon acquiring frontage between Farmington Junction and the lumber yard in the city.

A goodly amount of patronage appears to have resulted from the extension by the Detroit Department of Street Railways of car service from Redford to Five Points. One-man cars give 12-minute service on the new run.

FARMINGTON FOLK TO ATTEND THEATRE PARTY AT DETROIT

Thirty Respond To Invitation Of Redford Woman's Club For Performance Monday Eve

On Monday evening, April 16, about thirty Farmington residents will attend the Bonstelle Playhouse in Detroit to witness the comedy, "Two Girls and a Goose." A special motor coach has been provided, for those who have already purchased tickets and will convey passengers directly to and from the theatre. The coach will leave the Farmington depot in Farmington promptly at 7 o'clock.

The response of local residents came to a call of the Redford Woman's Club who undertook to sell the season's capacity of the Bonstelle Theatre for the above performance. Those in charge have arranged for dancing after the show. Punch will be served also.

THEATRE OWNERS' HEAD TO SPEAK HERE APR. 26

H. M. Richey of Detroit, General Manager of the Motion Picture Owners' Association, will be the speaker of the day at the meeting of the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association on Thursday, April 26. Mr. Richey will address the Association on "Better Films."

qualified primary teacher, having successfully organized a kindergarten at Olivet, where she is now teaching.

On April 9, Miss Vaughn Uhl was elected as teacher of the second, third and fourth grades for the coming year. Miss Uhl is now teaching at New Boston. She is also a teacher of several years' experience.

Choice Of New Superintendent Made By Board

Ralph B. Baker Selected From List Of 40 Applicants; Has 11 Years' Experience

The Farmington Board of Education has made its selection of a new superintendent of schools. At a special meeting Monday evening, the Board voted to engage Ralph B. Baker, for four years to employ Mr. Baker, who has had eleven years' experience in teaching, was unanimous.

Forty applications were received by the Farmington Board, indicating that the position of superintendent of Farmington schools is considered highly desirable among the teaching profession of the State. The vote to employ Mr. Baker, who has had eleven years' experience in teaching, was unanimous.

Mr. Baker's salary will be \$3,000 with an understanding that if his work meets with approval, the salary is to be increased. He is 32 years old, married and has two children, and plans to move to Farmington in July, when his year as superintendent is to begin.

In commenting on the number of applications filed, Frank Macomber, secretary of the Board, said, "The applications we received were from a very high type of men. I believe that half of the applicants could have filled the position successfully. Mr. Baker, we believe, is exceptionally well-fitted. He has taught grades in rural schools for four years, then became a high school teacher, high school principal, and superintendent. He has for some time been connected with the schools at Bad Axe.

Mr. Baker has attended school almost continuously since his graduation. During the past year, he has been studying at Mt. Pleasant, and plans to continue work for his master's degree, at the University of Michigan, while at Farmington. He has 190 hours of credit in one college since graduation. He is a man of splendid physique, over six feet tall, and weighing over 200 pounds, and develops a fine physique.

In connection with the discussion that has developed regarding the opportunity-room and the nursing service, Nathan Underwood, of the School Board, declared that the members of the Board are eager to have the voters of the School District express their opinions about the matter.

"There has been a good deal of talk about the opportunity-room and the nursing service," said Mr. Power, "and the impression has got about that the Board is opposed to these two items of the school program and is determined to eliminate them. This is not true."

"The Board of Education is desirous of carrying out the wishes of the School District, and it is our hope that the voters of the District will attend in large numbers the annual school meeting to be held in June. We hope that they will express themselves upon these matters, that we may know their wishes in the matter and act accordingly. We have not taken an irrevocable action, and the new Board is not bound by our proceedings. This Board, also, in making its policy in regard to any part of the program if it thought such a change was wise."

"If the property-owners of the District want the opportunity-room and the nursing service maintained or eliminated, they should so express themselves at the annual meeting."

It is understood that Miss Ada Safford, school nurse, will not return next year, and it is reported to have been her intention not to return, regardless of the action of the Board in reference to the nursing service.

BIRMINGHAM-FARMINGTON METHODIST MINISTERS' AND CHOIR EXCHANGE

Next Sunday evening Rev. Robert M. Atkins, pastor of the Methodist Church at Birmingham and their choir of some fifty voices will come to Farmington to give their Easter Cantata "From Darkness to Dawn." Rev. T. F. F. have and the local choir will go to Birmingham to give the Easter Cantata which was presented here last Sunday evening. "Life Everlasting."

Short-Change Artist Is Successful Here

Short change artists worked their game successfully in Farmington Monday when Mrs. Florence Holliday, 20, employed in the Victory Restaurant, was victimized to the extent of \$20. Three men, after eating at the restaurant, took her \$20 bill, then asked for it back, plus the change, in the customary short-change way.

Mrs. Holliday, suspicious after the men left, managed to obtain the license number of their car. Fowlerville authorities this week captured a short-change man and sentenced him to 60 days.

May Hold Grand Jury Quiz Here

Prosecutor's Office Decides Friday Inquiry Into Poison Death At Hospital

That Farmington may be the scene of a grand jury investigation into the death of a man, believed to have been caused by rat poison, of Reese Fox, former chauffeur at the Children's Home of Michigan, appears likely. Prosecutor Clyde L. Underwood of Oakland County and members of his staff are to decide on Friday morning whether or not to hold an investigation.

In case an inquiry is decided upon, it is probable that a one-man grand jury will be chosen, and that Judge John J. Schulte, Jr., of Farmington will be selected for the taking of testimony. Judge Schulte has been asked whether he would accept the designation and told the Prosecutor he would do so if the investigation was not likely to consume a great amount of time.

Interest in the case was revived during the past week with the receipt of a report from the State Toxicologist, Charles L. Bliss, that samples of the corn-meal obtained at the hospital revealed traces of barium carbonate poison. Such as is used to kill rats and mice. Prosecutor Underwood visited the Farmington hospital last Friday to check up further on events surrounding the death of Fox.

Although public interest in the case, lagged for a time, the prosecutor's office has never wholly given up the theory that the death might have been caused by mere accident.

Some Employees Leave Since Fox's death on January 24, there have been some changes in the personnel of the institution but whether the authorities hope to develop anything from this circumstance has not been revealed.

Three other employees of the hospital were made ill by the poison, but authorities are satisfied after investigation that the hospital supplies are kept in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of accidental mixture of the rat poison with the corn meal.

SALVATION ARMY DRIVE IN FARMINGTON BRINGS \$154.25; QUOTA IS \$200

The annual Salvation Army home service drive in Farmington, conducted by William A. Brown, envoy, so far has netted the sum of \$154.25, leaving a balance of \$45.75 still to be raised of the \$200 quota.

One-fourth of the total received was contributed by the Warner Estates, it was reported. The leaders have expressed their thanks to the business-men and of people of Farmington for their contributions to the toward making the drive a success and also the Exchange Club for their endorsement. It is hoped that within a week or two the fraternal and missionary societies will have responded to the appeals sent to them. All communications should be addressed to Edgar Pierce, cashier of the Farmington State Savings Bank, who will forward them to the Salvation Army headquarters.

OFFICER CHOICE DELAYED

Although it was expected that Deputy Sheriff Clayton Stokes would announce his selection of a new police officer for Farmington this week, delay in arrival of the reports of the physical examination of applicants has prevented a decision. The reports will have considerable bearing on the final choice.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Good, a girl, Friday, April 6.

Farmington Drain Declared Necessity; Plan Start Soon

Project Approved By Board Of Determination Without Single Objection Being Made; Covers 2,120 Acres, Estimate Is \$898,158.77

Engineers of the Oakland County Drain Commission are making preparations with all possible speed for the obtaining of right-of-way and starting of construction work for the new Farmington Storm Sewer Drain, which was declared a necessity by the Board of Determination at a hearing last Friday morning.

Not a single objection was filed by any taxpayer in the drainage district. Less than a score of citizens, practically all of them strong supporters of the Drain project, were in attendance at what is considered the biggest development project ever launched in Farmington and vicinity. The proceedings were in connection with the immensely important event were simple and brief. After half an hour of informal discussion, final call was made for objections and none appearing, the Board of Determination voted unanimously to declare the drain a necessity. This closed the hearing.

Drain Commissioner Arthur Spencer and Engineer Louis Wrenn, who represented the Drain Commissioner's office, gave the estimated cost of the new Drain as \$898,158.77. Commissioner Spencer said that this estimate, like others of his office, was placed high, in order that there would be no doubt of the engineers' estimates completely covering the cost of the Drain. It is regarded as likely that the contractors will be obtained for much less than the figure given. Mr. Spencer said, because of a "price-war" now said to be on between contractors.

Early History Told By Power

Narrative Of Pioneer Days Tells Of First Postmaster And Doctor In Farmington

An intensely interesting review of the history of Farmington from the time when Indians roamed the dense forest which covered this section, was read before members of the Farmington Exchange Club at its weekly meeting Wednesday noon by Nathan H. Power. Drawing upon material which he has collected from many sources, Mr. Power held his audience at a high pitch of interest with descriptions of early life in and around Farmington.

Mr. Power has consented to publication by the Enterprise of the paper read Wednesday. Although lacking the highly interesting interpolations with which Mr. Power enlivened his reading, the document still provides an absorbing story of early days, and a valuable addition to Mr. Power's already extensive contributions to Farmington historical work. The article is printed in part below, with remaining portions to appear in later issues.

By N. H. Power

I am going to talk to you today for a little while of the Farmington of the days that are gone. The Farmington of the forest, the Indian, the pioneer and his successors. I will try to be brief and not tire you. The white man who first came here found the town covered with a dense growth of timber, some of it centuries old. Trees magnificent and stately, fine specimens of God's handiwork.

Anxious to till the virgin soil the pioneers cut and slashed this timber without mercy and rolled the finest history, maple, oak, white wood and walnut timber into large heaps and burnt them. The cutting was done in the late fall and winter and the burning in August and September.

The value of this timber at present prices would run into millions of dollars. As soon as the fire was out and the soil cool, crops would be planted amongst the stumps and the pioneer would be rewarded with great yields. In these forest there were Indian tracks and paths. In the early explorations of the great lakes country by the French they found descendants of the Algonquin tribes in this part of the country and it is known that the French fur traders made visits here for the purpose of bartering with the Indians for their furs and pelts.

Signs of old Indian occupation have been found. On what is known as the old Drake farm in the Northwestern part of the township, stone arrowheads, (Continued on Page Five)

ALBERT COGSELL DIES

Albert Cogsell, 73, for many years a resident on a farm between Farmington and Novi, died at his home in Detroit on Tuesday. He was the father of Stewart and Floyd Cogsell and Mrs. B. J. Holzner.

It was expected that burial would be held in Oakwood cemetery.



ARTHUR W. SPENCER
County Drain Commissioner

Finish This Year

Asked how soon work might begin and whether the Drain could be completed this summer, Commissioner Spencer said that his office would begin obtaining right-of-way immediately, advertise for bids, let the contract, and probably start work in the early part of May. He expressed the opinion that the entire project would be completed by or in September.

Assessments for the Drain will be spread over a period of ten years, Mr. Spencer said. A considerable portion of the expense, it is said, will be borne by the City of Farmington for trunk-line sewers. Work would probably be started in two or three different parts of the drainage area at the same time, Mr. Spencer said.

The contract will be let at the town hall in Farmington. The Board of Determination in session here Friday consisted of Peter Evans, chairman; Addison C. Smith, Oliver D. Gibbs, Avon township, Duncan MacRae, Royal Oak City, and Mark B. Armstrong of Pontiac.

WEST POINT PARK BASEBALL TEAM TO BE LEAGUE MEMBER

First Ball Game Of Season Scheduled For Sunday With Dacor Indians

Interest in baseball among players and fans in this section, is expected to be keener than ever before, with the West Point Park team having been virtually accepted as a member of the fast Inter-County League. After months of effort upon the part of Harry Wolfe, of the West Point Park aggregation, officials have practically decided upon West Point Park's admission to membership.

The official approval is expected to be granted at a meeting to be held Sunday. Admission to the League would give West Point Park considerable prestige among teams in the part of the State.

At a meeting held last Friday, the team elected its officers for the coming season. Earl Wolfe was chosen manager and Russell Catherman field captain.

The opening game of the season will be played at West Point Park grounds Sunday afternoon, with the Dacor Indians as opponents. The game will be started at three o'clock.

West Point Park had a highly successful season last year, and an even better one is anticipated this summer with the addition of new and capable men to the lineup.