

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 4

THREE SECTIONS

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No Neglect In Orphanage Fire, Sheriff Believes

Inquest May Be Held, But Negligence Not Indicated, Schram Says After Inquiry

After two days of exhaustive investigation, Sheriff Frank Schram was convinced Wednesday afternoon that no negligence had attended the destruction by fire early Monday morning of Village Marillac, Providence Hospital Infants' boarding home northeast of Farmington, with the loss of one life. An inquest may be held the latter part of next week, Sheriff Schram told the Enterprise, but a decision to hold one would not indicate any belief that someone was at fault.

Out of the mass of conflicting reports which followed the tragic blaze, the Sheriff Wednesday drew what he believed to be the nearest possible to the exact record of events. His detailed questioning of Asa H. Otis, 69-year-old janitor, who is still in a Detroit hospital suffering from shock, brought out a logical story of the start of the fire.

Wednesday morning, two days after the building was destroyed, coal and debris in the basement of the structure was still burning, with flames four feet high lending a weird aspect to the scene of the tragedy.

A fortunate wind-condition, and the coolness of the five nuns and two sisters made it possible to save 59 of the 60 children in the home. Sheriff Schram said that Miss Dorothy Smith, 69-year-old, who is president of the church, his investigation showed a strong northwest wind was blowing at the time and that the fire started in the extreme southeast corner of the building, so that it made slow headway.

Strangely enough, it was anticipated a child later found to be safe, that led to the discovery of the body of Ferris Farhart, burned beyond recognition, in the ruins.

In talking with Deputy Sheriff Lee Doyle about noon Monday, Karl Tibbitts, who lives across the road from the home, and who sheltered the children, displayed anxiety about a little girl, the only crippled child in the boarding home.

Deputy Doyle called the Providence Hospital in Detroit, and was assured that all had been saved. He phoned Mr. Tibbitts, and gave him this message, to which Mr. Tibbitts replied that there had been a mistake, because the latter found part of a burned body in the ruins.

The boy apparently had suffocated, or slept while the structure burned, the body being found in the little bed. The bed had apparently crashed down to the basement from the second floor, the body remaining on the spring where it was found. Only the torso and head remained.

Nine men of the Farmington volunteer fire department answered the alarm shortly after 4 o'clock, but found their efforts futile. They were Chief Harvey Blough, Norman Lee, John Mahaney, Bernard Banfield, Frank Olson, Fred Westfall, Norman Spaller, Meredith Steele, and Howard Osmus. They found no water supply to pump, the creek near the burning building being almost dry.

Sisters Margaret Mary and Viviana were in charge of the home. All the children were under six years old. Helen Dwyer, a nurse, was particularly praised for her courageous work in carrying out children from the burning structure.

The part of the building in which the fire started was 30 years old, and had recently been a private residence. The fire started, according to Otis, the janitor, near the roof of the building, and broke out of the siding. Loss is estimated at \$75,000, only a fraction of it covered by insurance. No information has been obtained as to whether a new building might be built on the site.

ATTEND THE BAZAAR AND Chicken supper to be held at the Evangelical Church, Wednesday, December 5, 5:30 until all served. Adults 75c; children under 12 years, 35c. Entertainment in the evening.

Smiles, Tears Greet Anniversary Issue; Girls Adore 'Gay Young Blade'

Fires In Orphanages Just A Year Apart

By a strange coincidence, it was almost a year to the day after an alarm of fire at the Methodist Children's Home in Farmington last Fall, that fire destroyed the Providence Hospital boarding home early Monday morning.

It was about midnight of Sunday, November 20, last year, that flames broke out in the Methodist Home west of town. Unlike the tragic fire of Monday, the 19th, at Providence Home this year, the blaze of last November was small and quickly subdued.

Church Holds A 'Homecoming Day'

Afternoon And Evening Gatherings Held At Universalist Church In Farmington

Last Thursday afternoon and evening the Universalist Church here was opened for a "Homecoming Day." The afternoon meeting was presided over by Mrs. Dorothy Smith. Congregational singing was followed by an address of welcome by Mrs. Smith. Miss Ida Steele gave a very interesting history of the church from the time it was built 75 years ago up to the present time.

The two afternoon speakers were Mrs. F. D. Adams and Miss Dorothy Tilden of Detroit. Mrs. Adams, who is president of the church, his investigation showed a strong northwest wind was blowing at the time and that the fire started in the extreme southeast corner of the building, so that it made slow headway.

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Many a smile and perhaps even more frequently a tear, greeted the publication last week of the Enterprise fortieth anniversary Edition, with its pictures and stories of olden days. There was hearty laughter, too, and most amusing of all, perhaps, the future created by the photograph of City Clerk N. H. Power as "a gay young blade" of the Eighties. Half a dozen young women of the town, it is reported, declared that "young Mr. Power" was "the handsomest man they had ever seen." Whether any of them are still carrying clipped-out pictures around in their purses is unknown, because those things are hard to find in this age. The ample reason to believe that at least a few young Farmington swains are quite content that Mr. Power was in his twenties—in the Eighties. Upon being told which Mr. Power merely smiles—and refers to his later picture.

The photograph of the arrival of the first street-car created probably the widest interest. One reader believes he has identified P. Dean Warner, and comparison with larger photographs in the Enterprise office, tend to confirm the identification. The picture of Farmington's Main Street Forty Years Ago found particular favor with many old residents, a number of whom have pointed out to younger folk the buildings in the picture which are still in use.

The reproduction of the front page of the first Enterprise was regarded by readers to be among the most interesting features. Unfortunately, it was necessary, in making the plate from which the page was printed, to specify a reduction of about one-third, in order to bring it within the page-sized used.

The issue brought forth a number of interesting reminiscences from old residents, among them one from Floyd Nichols concerning the passing of the old-style wooden "awnings" which protected from the sun all of the Grand River stores years ago. When it was finally decided that their "time had come," Mr. Nichols said, a stout rope was produced and tied securely to the entire row of awnings. The rope was given by a number of men, and one after another the wooden coverings came down, to be replaced by real canvas awnings.

FARMINGTON MAN IN FLOOD REGION ON FLORIDA TRIP

Emory Hatton And Carl Ely Of Northville Delayed On Return Home

The devastating effect of the floods which recently swept border states of the South were brought home to Emory Hatton of Farmington, and Carl Ely of Northville, during their recent return trip from Florida, which was completed last Thursday evening. The men were detained over a day because of roads being impassable, as a result of the floods.

On the first day of their return trip, Sunday, November 18, Mr. Hatton related, they covered the distance from Florida to Pineville, Ky. Here they entered the flooded region, and were forced to remain over until late Monday afternoon before travel could resume. Roads in all directions were washed out.

When they did begin again their journey, Mr. Hatton said, "proceeding slowly and the work of the flood was to be seen on every hand."

Extra Copies Of The Fortieth Anniversary Edition Are Available

Numerous readers have requested extra copies of last week's Fortieth Anniversary Edition of the Enterprise, and a number of copies still available. They may be obtained at the Enterprise office at five cents each, for the complete paper. No extra charge is made for sending papers out of town, to whatever address may be designated.

Historical Data Wanted

The Enterprise is much interested in obtaining historical material relative to early days in Farmington, and would appreciate hearing from readers who may have such material. Photographs particularly are valued, but other items are also desired. If you have material which you wish to keep, but might loan for temporary use, communication with the Editor would be appreciated.

Drives Hospital Ambulance While Drunk; Arrested

Chaufeur Of Children's Hospital Of Michigan And Two Companions Convicted

Discovered driving an ambulance of the Children's Hospital of Michigan while drunk, with three companions, George Chadwick, alias George Karmie, chauffeur of the hospital car, was arrested shortly after midnight Wednesday morning by Deputy Sheriff Lee Doyle, and convicted yesterday afternoon of driving while under the influence of liquor. An empty whiskey-bottle and an unloaded revolver were found in the ambulance by Deputy Doyle when he cleared it of the occupants.

The arrest took place in Parker subdivision south of Farmington. Deputy Doyle was driving north when he saw the ambulance approaching, the driver continuing starting and stopping it. As he passed the ambulance, Deputy Doyle saw the hospital name upon it. He turned his car around and extinguished the lights, and followed. The ambulance swerved from side to side of the road, and finally stopped.

Deputy Doyle went up and spoke to the driver, who was incoherent. Beside him was John W. Barker, and in the back portion of the ambulance, Raymond Rice and Joseph Kimsel. All were employees of the Children's Hospital.

In the seat, behind where Barker had been sitting, was found the revolver, a .38 caliber weapon. The bottle was found in the other portion of the machine. Deputy Doyle took possession of both, and arrested all four men.

Wednesday afternoon Chadwick was arraigned in Pontiac and sentenced to pay a fine of \$200 or serve 60 days. His driving license was revoked for six months.

Severe penalties were meted out to Barker and Kimsel, both being fined \$100 or 30 days, respectively. The four, was released early Wednesday morning.

Deputy Doyle drove the ambulance back to the Hospital.

EMPLOYEES OF POST OFFICE GET THRILL AS 4 CARS CRASH

Walled Lake Man's Machine Hits One And Piles Three On The Sidewalks

Employees of the Farmington postoffice and of business-places nearby were afforded some excitement Tuesday morning about nine o'clock, when a car driven by Fred Bushey of Walled Lake struck a machine near the curb and pushed upon the sidewalk three others parked in line. Two autos were badly damaged.

Vaughn L. Hart of 116 Shawnee street was pulling out from the curb when Bushey came along, driving east on Grand River avenue, in a new car. The right front wheel of Bushey's machine caught the left front of Hart's. The Bushey car swerved into a coach which had been parked just ahead, by Mrs. E. Middlewood, pushing the coach up over the curb, where it bent down a "parallel parking" sign and came to rest partly on the sidewalk. A roadster owned by A. W. Bidwell was pushed upon the walk, but not damaged.

Bushey declared he had been driving slowly. He is said to have agreed to pay for the damage done. The car which Mrs. Middlewood had parked is owned by Farmington Motor Sales, her own machine having been put in for repairs.

MANY AT "FEATHER PARTY" The "feather party" given by Groves-Walker Post, American Legion in Farmington Town Hall, Tuesday evening attracted a large gathering and resulted in the addition of a tidy sum to the Legion's fund. Numerous ducks, turkeys, and geese were distributed.

"RAFFLE" FOR CHURCH A "Turkey Raffle" for the benefit of Our Lady of Sorrows church of Farmington, was given at St. Mary's church in Redford Tuesday evening. Several hundred were present during the evening, among them many from Farmington and vicinity.

Entire School Board Resigns As Bond Issue Is Defeated

Sixth District Board Of Five Quits At Close Of Hectic Session In William Grace School; Meet Tuesday To Chose New Officials

Resignation of the entire Board of Education of School District No. 6 brought to a hectic close Monday evening a special meeting at which, for the second time, voters of the district voted down a proposed \$85,000 bond issue for a new school building. Heated argument reminiscent of two meetings last year, when the Sheriff's aid was sought to maintain order, was ended by a timely motion for adjournment. A special meeting will be held next Tuesday evening, December 4, to elect new board members to fill the vacancies.

The vote against the bond issue for \$85,000 was even more decisive than at the previous meeting, 59 casting ballots against the proposal to 23 for it.

The meeting opened peaceably enough, although there was some spirited discussion, before Deputy County School Commissioner Archie C. Leonard rose to speak. Immediately after his talk, the ballot was declared open, and was kept open until 10 o'clock, the tally being announced soon after.

Following announcement of the result, Secretary Oldham stepped forward and asked, "What do you want to do? It's up to you people. Do you want to add some more, use a portable building, or what?" No suggestions were offered, but one resident said he would like to hear the opinion of Amos Otis, of Farmington, as a man experienced in building.

Otis Speaks

Mr. Otis said that while not a resident of the Sixth District, he pays taxes there and is much interested. "I don't think it's necessary to go and equander \$85,000 on a new building," Mr. Otis declared. "The Farmington school, much bigger, only cost \$55,000, and it's as well built a school as you can find anywhere in this County. I believe that for \$12,000 you can put two more rooms on here, and over at the other school the same thing, and not have to put in \$85,000 for a new building."

After an exchange with Mr. Otis regarding the date the Farmington School was built, and as the meeting appeared about over, Secretary A. Ray Oldham, of the Board, stepped forward. He declared that he had served the District for four years, and that in

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BAKERS SUFFER CUTS, SHOCK IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Car Is Turned On Side In Ditch When Hit By Another On Halsted Road

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baker of Towle Line road, northeast of Farmington, well-known residents of this section, were cut and severely shaken up Saturday afternoon when their automobile was turned on its side in collision with another machine at Halsted and Eleven and One-Half Mile roads.

Baker received a severe cut on the head and Mrs. Baker suffered from shock. Neither car was seriously damaged. The Bakers were driving north on Halsted road when their new sedan was hit broadside by a light machine driven by Gustave Peters, 40, of 4415 Abington avenue, Detroit. Mr. Peters was driving west on Eleven and One-Half Mile road. The smaller auto pushed the heavier sedan into the ditch. Peters, it is said, came along and lent his aid, bringing the boy to Farmington, and when the doctor he sought could not be found, took the lad to Redford. He was returning from this journey if it is understood on business of his own, when his car struck that of Mr. Baker.

A peculiar circumstance reported was that Peters himself had only a short time before taken to a doctor in Redford, a boy who had fallen from a hay-load into the ditch. Peters, it is said, brought the boy to Farmington, and when the doctor he sought could not be found, took the lad to Redford. He was returning from this journey if it is understood on business of his own, when his car struck that of Mr. Baker.

Now ten years have passed and we have a League of Nations whose purpose it is to adjust differences by peaceful means. This League is composed of representatives from fifty-three different nations. The association is only nine years old so it cannot be contrasted with governments which are over a hundred years old.

Among the many questions which already have been settled by the League, is one concerning the ownership of the Asian Islands, which the two countries, (Continued on Page Eight)