

# The Farmington Enterprise

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Hyman Levinson  
C. S. Lehmann

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## Editorials

### NOW WHO'S HOLDING THE BAG?

In the long and often disheartening story of Grand River we are told that important parts have been played, especially in recent months, by a number of men not residents along the highway. Much of the difficulty is laid at their door.

These gentlemen, it seems, "got the tip" some time ago that the State had made up its mind to push through Grand River, two hundred and four feet, right up to Farmington, no matter what the cost. And they decided that it should cost the State a plenty, to the tremendous good of their own pocketbooks.

Whereupon these men did go forth, the story goes, and laid hold of lots in back of those fronting on Grand River, and put upon them most fancy prices—the State right-of-way buyers, and with some frontage owners who wanted more for a few feet off the front of their lots than the whole business was worth, they presented such a picture that the State turned its back on Grand River for the "tenth time." And apparently these men had set Farmington back for another few years.

They had put the State "in the hole," so they thought. But the State is rather large to thus be put, and it simply forgot all about Grand River, and went about other tasks.

And Farmington was left "holding the bag."

But see! Farmington appealed to the County Road Commission, and to Engineer Balkema, and found sympathetic ears and these men went to work, and in marvellously short time a Plan did come forth. And so good was it that the State did approve, and all of Farmington doth applaud. And the road might come. And back-lots will be for safe cheap.

For by the Plan, neither the State, nor Farmington, nor anyone, doth need the high-priced back-lots, nor the the sky-high frontage, and yet there can be a road.

And therefore we do ask—"Who's holding the bag now?"

Praise be!

### HAIL, EUGENIA.

How many times have you heard a piece of music played, and tried to remember its name? How many times have you hummed the tune, knowing it perfectly well, and saying to yourself—"I know the name of it as well as my own—what is that piece?" Many a time, we'll venture.

In fact, so universal is the experience that Thomas, the accomplished cartoonist of the Detroit News, once traced his famous character, Mr. Straphanger, through a full-page of comic pictures based on this idea. The phonograph was played as Mr. Straphanger sat doing nothing on the porch one bright Sunday afternoon. Suddenly he started touring about the house, scratching his head. He went through a series of helter-skelter scenes, and finally ended up by falling back wards off his rocking-chair which was on the very edge of the porch. He landed on the ground in a heap, but yelling triumphantly, his memory apparently shocked into action, "I know the name of it, it's 'Romona'."

Thus we feel that the achievement of Eugenia Regentik, of West Farmington at the recent Achievement Day of Oakland County 4-H Clubs, in making a perfect score in the music-memory contest, authors' names as well as the pieces, was the big achievement of the day—and too remarkable to pass without comment.

Next time you want to know how badly your memory is slumping, or how fast you're growing old, have somebody play twenty pieces for you—and try naming every one.

### Nice Distinctions as to "Why" of Whistling

Whistling is the boy's own music, according to the Springfield Republican. It is as natural for him to whistle as it is for a bird to sing—although the music is not always as melodious. But whistling, like other practices, is restrained in society by unwritten rules of etiquette. It is interesting to view this subject from the standpoint of manners.

A boy reprehensible, a servant dismissed, goes away whistling, if he dares. He wishes to express contempt, and he succeeds, at least, in enraging his master generally. A hooligan who commits some breach of the proprieties whistles bursts into a whistle. This is to save his face, meaning no harm; but it signifies "I don't care!" which is just the reverse of the apology needed. At best it shows indifference at what is the dullest feel, insult and provocation.

Boswell tells a little story of whistling illustrating the independent significance. Johnson and he were dining with the Duke of Argyll, who asked a man present to fetch some curiosity from another room. He brought the wrong article, and the Duke sent him back.

The exact position of this man to his host is undecidable. However, Boswell says, "He could not refuse, but to avoid any appearance of servility he whistled as he went out of the room. On my mentioning this afterward to Doctor Johnson he said it was 'a nice trait of character.'"

Boswell grasped with ease the objection, which is unintelligible to some persons.

### Old Churches Put to Variety of Purposes

The oldest English social institution is the parish vestry. It is a descendant of the tribal council of most primitive human establishments, combined with the nearly lost institution of religion. This body of persons entrusted with the administration of the temporal affairs of a parish was so called from the former custom of holding parish meetings in the vestry of the church. In ancient England vestries regulated all parochial affairs, ecclesiastical or civil. Indeed, the parish church of the fourteenth century was the common hall, sometimes the common market place and theater of its district. When the ties and portable altar were removed the church would be employed for all purposes. A landowner who found he had more wood or grain than he could take care of on his own premises could store it in the church simply by paying a small fee to the parson. Even the tower of the church was used. Especially in the more exposed districts (near the sea, it was a place of refuge, the castle of the inhabitants.—Detroit News.

**Anti Fire Brigade**

Who are the fire fighters of the insect world?

Tests carried out by a French woman scientist, Mme. Marguerite Combes, have proved that red ants, organize themselves into fire brigades and are able to extinguish flames by the application of formic acid.

When Mme. Combes placed a lighted cigarette on an ant hill, the alarm was given immediately, and the insect firemen set about their task successfully. The experiment was repeated several times with the same result, and a lighted taper was also extinguished. Finally a lighted candle was used, and this was put out in about a minute.

When ants were in danger of burning, they were dragged to safety by their companions.

**Duties of Party "Whips"**

Party whips are of recent introduction into the congress of the United States. The office has long been in existence in the British parliament. The duties of whips are (1) to inform the leader of the state of party opinion, (2) to count the vote in every division and report the results to the speaker, (3) to inform members when important divisions are expected and detain them until division occurs and (4) to tell members how to vote. The government whip must also "keep a house" or quorum, when government business is transacted.

**Forbidden Fun**

A Chinese boy of fourteen, according to the North China Herald, was involved in an automobile accident, witnessed the death of a pedestrian during a police battle with kidnappers, and was himself killed and held for two hours. He was on his way to school when all this happened and, arriving finally, he apologized to the teacher for being tardy.

Like any normal boy, he realized that under of circumstances should more adventures and pleasure interfere with his education.

**Hard to Find**

He was very old, but passionately attached to the royal and ancient game. The more he played, however, the more inaccurate became his strokes, and his play generally was worse and worse as time went on.

Finally, after missing the ball 15 times in succession on one occasion, he turned to the patient caddy and remarked:

"Gosh, dear, I suppose there can't be any worse players than myself."

"Well," returned the caddy consolingly, "there may be worse players, but, of course, they don't play."

They may be able to divide the calendar into 13 months, but so far the moon refuses to go around the earth 13 times in a year.

The American people seem to believe in popular government, provided they don't have to do anything to make it run along right.

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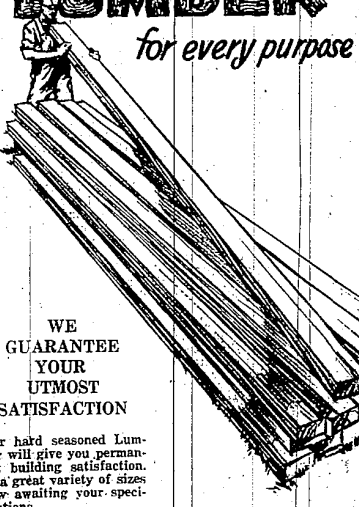
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