

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

'School Days' Again

"Feet that creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing."

Thus wrote Whittier, and thus may it prove to be next Tuesday morning when this community's children start another school year. In Farmington High, especially, might the students complain that it will be "more—and worse of it!" for the school day has been lengthened by one class period to permit a convenient schedule of work.

Yet for these Farmington boys and girls who do not look on school work too darkly, it should prove more interesting this year than ever before. The addition of biology to the curriculum provides one of the most absorbing subjects in the whole range of study. The appearance of the new athletic field, now acquiring a velvety covering of grass, gives promise of much enjoyment in the future, even though it cannot be used this fall for football. And with many and popular members of the faculty returning, school in Farmington shouldn't be such a bad place after all.

Then if that school band that is talked about frequently should really come into being, life will be very endurable even for young people who have just bidden farewell to another vacation.

Bring Them Back!

A library is more than just a place where books are kept and loaned, more than the work of the librarian and the books themselves. A most important part of any library is the borrowers who use the books.

Their importance becomes evident in a rather inconvenient way when, as recently, in the case of the Farmington library, the borrowers tend to forget that their privileges are accompanied by duties. The first of these duties is the prompt return of all books borrowed, on the date when they are due.

So far forgetful do some become that the librarian has been forced to make a public appeal several times for the return of books. And even these have frequently failed to bring in the much-sought volumes.

Large libraries, because of their size and the number of people who borrow books, find it necessary to compel rigid compliance with all rules for return of books. But in the smaller communities, where the librarian knows practically every borrower personally, there is more indulgence. This seems to bring, however, instead of appreciation, an increased laxity, and sometimes real impositions on the librarian's good nature.

A fact which negligent borrowers seem to lose sight of is that small libraries can even less afford to have books kept over time than large ones, because they have fewer volumes at their disposal, and keeping of a dozen popular books, each by one person for a long time, means that many others, (who might be neighbors and good friends), are

prevented from getting the titles they want to read. Farmington's librarian will appreciate it if, in fairness to her and other people of the community, everyone having books, overdue would return them at once—and all others take care to observe the due-dates faithfully.

'After Dark' Stays On

It's good news for theatre-goers that the engagement of "After Dark," at the Detroit Civic Theatre, has been extended for another two weeks, instead of closing on August 31. Almost everyone who has seen this play during the many weeks it has run, will tell you that it is among the most enjoyable things they have ever attended.

"After Dark," as most people know, is a play written more than 60 years ago, and acted just as it was in those days. The characters are costumed in the attire of the "70's" and manners follow as closely as possible those of the period following the Civil War.

There is, of course, the villain whose identity is proven by the fact that he keeps covered his left ear, which, fortunately for the hero and heroine, but too sadly for him, had been shot off in battle. The hero has his loyal and noble friend, who nearly loses his life in the path of a cloth-and-wood frame locomotive which rushes across the stage. The friend is saved, necessarily, by a former fellow-officer in the War, who starts the play in rags, drunkenness and disgrace, but ends up in triumph, dignity and a frock coat.

It would require half a page to list in detail what the Detroit Civic Theatre gives you in "After Dark" for the dollar and a half (best seats). The program itself is a sheet of paper that seems as if it would measure a yard long, when one unfolds it and laps it over the seat in front. Suffice to say you get one long laugh from beginning to end, and the best money's worth you will ever find in a playhouse. For if you should happen to be one of a very few who can't laugh at the dainty tip-toeings of the maids of 60 years ago, the cop who plays a slide-trombone and sings (?), you can still find plenty of amusement in watching the other spectators. If it makes you smile to see others on the verge of convulsions, prepare for a good time. For many spectators come dangerously near that stage when they see "After Dark."

Another Evolution

Back in 1889 the "doctor" used to say: "Now ladies and gents, kindly gather in close around the wagon. Small boys please keep back so that older people wishing to make purchases may get in where they can hear. The boys are going to play on the banjos in just a few minutes—ho, this way, everybody! Now, ladies and gents we are introducing in this locality Doctor Bokakiaki's Famous Pain Eradicator for Man or Beast at a price so low as to be

amazing. I am not going to ask a dollar for this large, home size bottle. I am not going to ask even 75, 50, 40 or 30 cents. For the breath-taking pittance of 25c, a quarter of a dollar, you get the full oversized bottle with complete directions for taking with a rust-proof corkscrew thrown in. ABSOLUTELY FREE. Now, as the boys play on the banjos my assistants will pass among you. Remember, this great medicine will cure coughs, rheumatism, headache, colic, spavin, ringworm, soreness, epilepsy, etc.—

Now in 1929 the story goes like this: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The following program is being brought to you by the courtesy of the Choo Choo Chewing Gum Co., makers of chewing gum for engineers—the chew with a personality. We trust that you will apply at your nearest dealer for a sample of this meritorious product. Remember it does not stick to the teeth, enmesh the gums or lost its flavor on the bedpost overnight. Remember the name—Choo Choo on the Choo Choo train, with the famous Choo Choo orchestra as the engineer. There will be a brief pause for station announcements."—Ionia County News.

OUR CITY BEAUTIFUL

In such sizzling weather as this, government and politics go by the board. With tourists descending daily upon our community, however, there is one problem which deserves thought.

Civic beauty is a subject upon which our citizens might well spend some time, thought and action. People remember beauty—they forget ugliness. If we wish our community to be remembered delightfully—indeed, to be remembered at all—by the stranger who passes this way, it is essential that our city be beautiful.

There is usually much of neatness and little of appeal to the practical business man in the idea of beauty. That beauty is most practical, however, and can be capitalized upon to an amazing degree, is a fact that cannot be gainsaid, following the experience of California, Florida, and a few other places.

When man forgets nature, he loses. When he works with nature, he wins. There are many opportunities to beautify our city which we have overlooked, although as small places go, we do not take off our hats to anybody! But it is taking advantage of every opportunity for community beauty that enables us to capitalize on this beauty.

If every girl were equally as good looking, no man would turn his head as he walked down the street. It is the exception that attracts attention. Our city should be in the position of the girl at whom everybody loves to look!—National Municipal League.

WRECK WINTER HOMES OF BLACK STEM RUST

While Michigan is advertising its advantages as a locality for summer homes, the United States Department of Agriculture is paying two crews of men to destroy the winter homes of the black stem rust of grain this State, according to the statement of Walter Reddy, East Lansing, State supervisor of barberry eradication.

Black stem rust is one of several plant diseases which damage cultivated crops during the growing season and then pass the winter living on some wild plant. The common barberry is the winter host for stem rust, and the destruction of barberry greatly lessens the damage caused by rust.

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