

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

### Pencil Permitted—Pen Prohibited

Mr. C. Lloyd Goodrich, deputy superintendent of the Michigan Department of Education, says, according to a letter in last week's Enterprise, that "anyone living in the (school) district may appear at the office of the secretary and . . . may make a penciled copy of board meetings, but not a pen copy."

This would appear to be one of those interesting and amusing, but not very important little things known as "a distinction without a difference."

What a dilemma Mr. Goodrich might find himself in, if everyone should suddenly forsake both the older implements of writing and at once equip themselves with those newer devices known as "ink pencils."

If we had one, we might also wonder what Mr. Goodrich's ruling might be on portable typewriters, which, so far as we know, are neither pen, pencil, nor good indelible.

And just to suppose one more supposition, what would be Mr. Goodrich's ruling if by some one person, in the community found it possible to memorize the minutes as he looked them over? Would it be Mr. Goodrich's rule that that person's brain would have to stop working, while he read the school board's minutes?

We fear that Mr. Goodrich (with all due respect to him and the office which he holds), in his zealousness to provide the Board of Education and the people of Farmington with a complete manual of instruction as to how they should conduct their school affairs and themselves, has made himself just a little bit ridiculous.

### Driving And Listening

Boston and Cincinnati appear to have taken the lead in opposing the spread of installation of radio receiving sets in automobiles, although attempts to legislate against the auto radio sets were delayed in one city and defeated in the other.

Many people feel that the widespread use of radio sets in motor cars will tend to increase the hazard of motor traffic, already sufficiently great. The first requisite for doing anything well is concentration upon the task in hand. Certainly this is not less true of driving an automobile than of anything else.

One could hardly pay attention to both the pavement and a program and do justice to both. In many cases the program might get the best of it—and the pavement what was left of the car and the occupants. Dialing and driving at the same time might prove to be beyond the average driver.

One of those gentlemen known as "column conductors," to whom most everything is funny, and who love to write humorous epigrams, might put it this way: Let fond prayers be said For Ptolemy's Piel. He turned the dial instead Of the steering-wheel.

### Seniors "All Aboard!"

On Saturday afternoon twenty-five happy seniors of Farmington High School will board a bus which will take them to the Union Station in Detroit, on the annual Seniors' trip to Washington. Sunday morning they will wake up in historic Harper's Ferry, where John Brown staged his ill-fated "uprising." That is, assuming that they will go to sleep Saturday night, which, in their present stage of excitement, appears entirely unlikely.

The idea of the Seniors going to Washington each year, which has by now become a custom, has been a subject of some discussion. Possibly there is something to be said against it as well as for it, although we have never heard any valid and forceful arguments put forth against it. In its favor there is the unquestioned truth that while travel cannot fully take the place of education, yet no person can hardly be called thoroughly educated who has not travelled at least to the extent that a trip to Washington affords.

A new point in its favor was mentioned in our hearing this week by a member of the class. One of the Farmington seniors, a boy, appears to have been kept in school since his freshman year by the anticipation of this Washington trip. It is said that on many occasions he has been on the verge of leaving school, but each time he has been persuaded to remain by his expectations of the trip to Washington. He is finishing school with a good record.

It may be argued, of course, that there is not a great advantage in keeping in high school a boy or girl who is not enough interested in study to stay in school for study's sake. But this is not taking into account the facts. Boys and girls of high school age do not realize the importance, the necessity of mental training above all else, in their later life. We know, and may as well admit, that large numbers of boys, and perhaps some girls, too, are kept in high school by athletics. To argue that this is undesirable is to declare against our whole educational program, which seeks for every boy and girl in America at least a high school education.

If a trip to Washington each year will help to do it, by arousing the enthusiasm of the boys and girls themselves, that is as good a way as any. And for some of them, this may be, probably will be, the happiest, most carefree episode of their lives. Everyone who likes to see others happy will be glad to have them enjoy it.

### Fundamental Rights Re-Affirmed

Free speech and freedom of the press has been an issue in recent months in Cleveland, where a judge some weeks ago sentenced two newspapermen to 30-day terms in jail for what he called "contempt of court." Their newspaper carried the case to the higher courts, to vindicate the

newspaper men and to have reaffirmed the principle of freedom of speech and press.

The court to which the appeal was taken not only freed the accused and vindicated the principle for which the appeal was taken, but, as often happens, went even beyond what the appellants might have asked, in its declaration for the principle of free speech and free press.

A weekly of national circulation reports the following:

"Free speech and a free press had their day in court on March 6 when Louis B. Seltzer, editor, and Carl H. Matson, editorial writer, of the Cleveland Press, were purged of contempt of court by the Appellate Court of Cuyahoga County. The contempt with which Seltzer and Matson were charged consisted in a published criticism of an injunction, issued by Frederick P. Walthor of the Court of Common Pleas, forbidding the sheriff to interfere with races at the Thicketdown Track and the betting which accompanied them. The Appellate Court not only tore the injunction order in pieces, arraigned the motives of the lower court in issuing it, and declared that even if the accused had been guilty the thirty-day sentence was excessive, but frankly stated that 'we live in an age when freedom of speech and freedom of press are paramount issues,' and that 'people should be allowed to say what they please and newspapers should be allowed to print what they please, always making themselves liable under the law of slander or the law of libel.'"

Reputable newspapers and other publications do not insist upon their right to print merely "what they please," although they might be fully justified in doing so. They do insist upon recognition of their right to publish what the public welfare requires, what it is to the interest of the people to know. And it is a good thing, occasionally, to have those rights so clearly and forcibly upheld and defined, as has been done by the Appellate Court of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, although it is not the most desirable state of affairs when anyone must go to courts of appeal to have this fundamental right of American citizenship recognized.

### "Don't Bother" Him

In a column of quotations, listing sayings of noted (and notorious) men, there appeared recently the following:

"Johnny Genaro, Chicago gangster, dying and asked if he knew who shot him:

"Sure. Two guys that wore pants and hats and coats. Write that down and don't bother me."

This leads one to wonder what might be said of this by those who urge capital punishment, i. e., the fear of death, as a crime deterrent.

### JOBS GUARANTEED AS YOU LEARN—BE CAREFUL!

Disreputable resident and correspondence schools, in contrast with their legitimate competitors, frequently "guarantee" a job in order to procure a student.

While legitimate schools make no such promises, others less reputable entice prospects into the trap, and then threaten them with suit if the amount of tuition called for by the contract, is not promptly paid.


This practice among certain classes of schools is all too prevalent in these days of varying employment conditions, and complaints to the Bureau are many.

The State Department of Industrial Education does not permit trade schools, resident in Michigan, to guarantee jobs. Many persons, living Michigan, however, are misled by advertisements and verbal promises of employment by schools with headquarters out of the state.

Report the facts promptly to the Better Business Bureau, if you have been misled.

Better Business Bureau.

Q. In what year was the Epworth League founded?  
A. In the year 1889.  
Q. What is the length and in what year was the Erie Canal completed?  
A. 363 miles long; in 1825.



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