

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 28

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1930

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Discuss Dropping Of Special Class, Cutting Tuition

Farmington Board Of Education Considers Value Of Special Instruction

Whether the opportunity room is to be maintained in the Farmington schools, and whether tuition in the high school should be lowered to put Farmington on an equal basis with the Northville Schools, were discussed by the Farmington Board of Education at its May meeting last Thursday evening.

The opportunity room was left without a provision for a teacher when the Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Doris Green, third grade teacher, and then voted to tender the third grade position to Miss Winifred Thomas, at present in charge of the opportunity room.

After some discussion of the conduct of the opportunity room and whether or not it is a success, the Board left the question open, by not making arrangements to secure another teacher for that room for next year.

Supt. Ralph E. Baker brought before the Board the fact that Novi School has 18 pupils ready for the high school next year, but that Farmington's tuition is \$10 a pupil above the Northville rate, and that it was indicated this might be an important factor in determining to which school the Novi children would go.

The Novi pupils, Supt. Baker told the Board, were said to have indicated that they prefer Farmington High School to either Northville or Walled Lake, other nearby schools, but that "Farmington must come down \$10 to compete with Northville." Farmington's tuition rate is \$100, that of Northville is \$90.

Supt. Baker said that Farmington has a teaching staff fully capable to handle the additional 18 pupils. Four Novi pupils are now in the Farmington High School. No action was taken by the Board.

Novi To Drop Nurse
It was reported to the Board that the Novi Board, which has had an agreement with Farmington for part-time services of the school nurse, has decided not to have a nurse next year. The Novi School paid Farmington \$400 for the nurse's services during the present year.

However, since the Clarenceville School nurse, Miss Lucille Dowsett, has resigned, and none was being engaged for next year by that Board, it was suggested that Farmington might make an arrangement with the John Grace School, which has employed the Clarenceville nurse part-time this year.

It was announced that a new French and English teacher has been engaged for the coming year.

A. G. LEONARD TO SPEAK NEXT WEEK AT P. T. A. MEETING

Evening Session Arranged To Assure Large Attendance On Thursday

Archib G. Leonard, deputy commissioner of Oakland County Public Schools, and former superintendent of Farmington schools, is to be the speaker at the May meeting of the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association next Thursday evening, May 22. The meeting will be held in the evening to enable as many as possible to attend.

Elmer W. Palmer, president of the P. T. A., will preside at the meeting. In last week's issue of the Enterprise it was erroneously stated that the new officers would be in charge, but the new officers, elected last month, do not take office until September.

It is hoped that a large number of parents will attend the meeting next Thursday evening. At the last meeting of the P. T. A. a resolution was passed that at least half of the meetings in the coming year be held in the evening, and an increase in attendance is expected. The next Thursday evening will start at 8 o'clock.

F. H. S. Seniors are planning the annual Senior Prom for June 6.

Cigaret Sparks Set

Auto Trailer Afire

A cigaret cost its smoker a good many dollars on Grand River avenue Sunday afternoon. A Detroit driver driving his car out to a lake cottage, had a quantity of bedding packed on a trailer behind the car. Sparks from his cigaret started the bedding afire.

The machine was near Gates corners, west of Farmington when the fire occurred. The Farmington fire department responded to an alarm.

West Point Park Man Is Injured

Earl Wolfe Is Hurt In Collision At Phoenix Park Monday Night

Earl Wolfe, well-known resident of West Point Park, was badly bruised and the driver of another car was seriously hurt in a collision of their automobiles on Plymouth road at Phoenix Park Monday night.

According to reports, Mr. Wolfe was returning from Plymouth and the other driver, said to be a mechanic at Stinson airport, was coming from Northville. It was said the Stinson field man had apparently fallen asleep and was on the wrong side of the road.

Both men were picked up unconscious after the crash. Mr. Wolfe being badly bruised and the other driver having had 14 teeth knocked out, they also had a bad cut on the forehead. Both were given first aid, and Mr. Wolfe was taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Davies.

Mr. Wolfe was able to be out with the aid of a cane Thursday. Both cars were badly damaged.

MRS. H. JOHNSON IS CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF WOMAN'S CLUB

Former County Federation Leader Elected By Farmington Women's Club

Members of Farmington Woman's Club at their annual meeting Wednesday elected as their president for the coming year Mrs. Harrison Johnson. Mrs. Johnson will succeed Mrs. Elmer Switzer.

Other officers elected Wednesday by the Club were: Miss Meriah Andrews, vice president; Mrs. Karl G. Ritter, corresponding secretary; Miss Mary Fox, recording secretary; Mrs. E. W. Whipple, treasurer (re-elected).

The new officers will take office next October. Mrs. Johnson has been president of the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Elmer Dohany.

CLARENCEVILLE WOMEN GO FREE, ACCUSERS HELD

Statement By Prosecutor Results In Swift Turning Of Tables On Men

A swift turn-about took place Wednesday morning in what was to have been the trial of two Clarenceville women on charges of assault in Circuit Court at Pontiac. Instead, their two accusers were taken into custody for investigation and the women freed.

William and Frank Merrifew of Fourth Gate subdivision had charged Mrs. May Terrell and Mrs. Anna Fotch with firing at their automobile on the evening of May 20, on Switzer road near Fourteen Mile road. The women declared the charges were a "frame-up," and that they were not within 10 miles of the spot at the time.

Wednesday morning, after the Merrifew brothers had testified the preceding day, Prosecutor Norman C. Orr moved for a verdict of not guilty, resting his belief of the defendants' alibi. The Merrifew brothers and Jack Fotch, husband of Mrs. Fotch, were ordered held for investigation. The Fatches are engaged in divorce proceedings.

Pouring Cement Begins At West End Of Cut-Off

First Concrete Put Down On Grand River Cut-Off Project; Large Crew At Work

The first pouring of concrete on the Farmington Grand River Cut-off project took place Monday morning of this week when a large crew of men at work with a mixer spread cement at the intersection of the Cut-off road with Farmington road.

The intersection, which broadens out Farmington road to provide ample turning space, in accordance with latest road building practice, was complete first. The paving crew is moving eastward on the 20-foot strip as fast as possible.

It is expected that paving of the Cut-off from Farmington road to the intersection with Grand River, east of Tuck road, will be completed in not more than a month, and in much shorter time, if the weather is favorable.

The next part of the job to be completed, it is now understood, is laying of 20 feet of concrete from the south side of Grand River to the Cut-off road, at the intersection of Grand River and Eight Mile road, thus affording 40 feet of driving space in that stretch at the earliest possible date.

While it cannot be predicted with certainty, it is anticipated that Grand River between Eight Mile road and the business section of Farmington will at no time be closed for traffic. The endeavor will be to pave the south side of Grand River first and leave the old pavement on the north side of the tracks until the new concrete strip is ready for traffic.

ATTENTION DRAWN TO BAD CROSSING ON GRAND RIVER

Car Smashed Going Down Tracks; Auto Club May Erect Warning Sign

The danger-spot on Grand River avenue opposite the Farmington Lumber and Coal Co. office in Farmington, where the road becomes a single strip of pavement, has come into the foreground again with a complaint by a Detroit motorist, an accident Saturday night which endangered Farmington residents, and attention to the problem by the Detroit Automobile Club.

Late Saturday evening a large car driven by Melville Ralph of 7010 Tyson, Detroit, eastbound, failed to make the job across the car-tracks and went down into the rails, going almost to Maple avenue before it was stopped. The car turned over on its side, almost into the path of a westbound machine in which two residents of Farmington were riding. The right side of Ralph's car was badly smashed.

The problem was discussed at the last meeting of the City Commission, when a letter was read from H. O. Rounds, director of the safety and traffic division of the Detroit Automobile Club. Mr. Rounds, replying to a Detroit letter, took the position that no great damage could occur to drivers obeying the law, but indicated a sign might be placed there. He mailed a copy of the letter to Mayor Arthur Lamb. The Commission agreed with Mr. Rounds.

A sign placed at the crossing a year ago by a Farmington automobile agency was first battered and finally knocked down. Lines indicating the crossing were painted on the pavement Monday by County road employees. Mr. Rounds' letter on the subject is as follows:

May 3, 1930.
Mr. Clinton M. Davis,
2389 Glynn Court,
Detroit, Michigan.
Dear Sir:

This acknowledgment your kind favor of May 1st calling attention to an unsafe condition in Farmington where the street car track turns and runs down the side of the roadway; and I think it would be of a very good idea, you suggest, to place some kind of a sign there.

However, you will agree with me that if drivers were obeying the law and driving the 20 miles (Continued on page five)

Doctor Affords Some Hope For Burned Woman

Mrs. Julia Wheeler Of West Point Park At A Detroit Hospital

A slight ray of hope for the recovery of Mrs. Julia Wheeler, 53 years old, of West Point Park, who was severely burned Wednesday at her home on Seven Mile road, was afforded Thursday by a consulting physician of Harper Hospital, Detroit, called to Receiving Hospital to assist in the case. He expressed the belief that Mrs. Wheeler had a chance, though it was but a slender one, to live.

Mrs. Wheeler's clothes caught fire while she was in the barn at the rear of her home. She ran out, enveloped in flames. Her two sons, Ed, and Russell, were with her, but they were taken to the Receiving Hospital branch at Redford, but later transferred to the main Receiving Hospital building. Friends from West Point Park, where she has lived for many years, were permitted to visit her Thursday.

As Mrs. Wheeler ran, she stumbled and fell. A blanket was obtained and she was wrapped in it, smothering the flames. Heene's ambulance was called and Mrs. Wheeler was taken to the Receiving Hospital branch at Redford, but later transferred to the main Receiving Hospital building. Friends from West Point Park, where she has lived for many years, were permitted to visit her Thursday.

Besides Mrs. Wheeler and her two sons, the family consists of her husband, Henry Wheeler, and two daughters, Lulu and Mabel, the latter a nurse.

The Wheelers live on the north side of Seven Mile road, opposite Pierson School, a short distance east of Farmington road.

DECORATION DAY PLANS ARE MADE BY LEGION POST

War Veterans, Boy Scouts And School Children To Unite In Honoring War Dead

Preparations for the annual Memorial Day observance in Farmington are being completed by Croswalker Post, American Legion.

Members of the Legion Post, other veterans, Boy Scouts, school children, and any others who may desire to do so will participate in the parade. The Scout troops will include those of Farmington, Clarenceville and Walled Lake. The high school band will provide marching music.

The parade will start from the Log Cabin at 10 a. m. Usual memorial services will be held at Oakwood Cemetery and the marchers will return to the Log Cabin.

All ex-service men are invited by the Legion to gather at the Memorial Day.

GYPSY WOMEN GO THRU FARMINGTON; GET FARMERS \$35

Twelve Mile Road Resident Reports Loss Of Money; Gypsies Seen In Town

When five gypsy woman and a man drove up Farmington road to Grand River in Farmington last Friday afternoon, in a big car, stopped at the signal light and then turned up Grand River, they attracted the attention of a few in the business section, but no one thought much about it. A short time later there was a report that indicated it would have been well if the gypsies could be found.

The five gypsy women with their male companion were reported to have driven into the yard of the farm of D. F. Ferguson, 65 on Orchard Lane, road near Twelve Mile road. One of the women asked Mr. Ferguson for a drink of water. He brought her a glass and after a bit of conversation the gypsies left.

As Mr. Ferguson walked back to the barn, a farm-hand remarked to him, "Never trust a gypsy." Mr. Ferguson laughed, and a moment later reached in his pocket for his handkerchief and \$35 that had been in his pocket were gone. So were the gypsies.

Club President



Mrs. Harrison Johnson, elected president Wednesday of the Farmington Woman's Club.

Nine-Mile Paving Hearing May 21

Road Commissioners Set Date For Hearing Of Objections On Improvement

The date for hearing of objections to the paving of Nine Mile road from Grand River to Southfield, which when completed would give this section another paved-road connection with the territory to the east, has been set by the Oakland County Road Commission. The hearing will be held next Wednesday, May 21.

The Commissioners will be at the northeast corner of Section 36, Farmington Township, corner of Fourth Gate (Ford Republic) and Nine Mile roads at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning to hear objections.

The stretch to be paved is seven miles long, and runs from the present ending of the Nine Mile road pavement at Southfield road, to Grand River, which it would intersect just east of Farmington Junction.

The paving, which was petitioned for under the Covert Act, would be 20 feet wide. The assessment district includes all land within half a mile on each side of the highway. Detailed notice of the hearing appears on page 6 of this issue.

YOUTHS SIPHON GAS FROM TRUCK AT NIGHT—CAUGHT

Disappearance Of Fuel Solved By Admission Of Two Farmington Boys

For some time gasoline had been disappearing during the night from the tank of a truck driven by John Green, for the Dairy Co. The truck was parked in a driveway at the dairy plant just off Grand River avenue in Farmington.

The mystery was solved late last Friday night when two youths admitted that they had been removing gasoline from the truck for use in a small roadster owned by one of them.

Shortly before midnight, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Meyers, who live nearby, were awakened by noise of fowl kept by neighbors. Looking out, Mrs. Meyers saw two figures near the dairy truck. At the same time, Mr. Green, who had been endeavoring to learn where the gasoline was going, approached the truck, and the pair ran away, leaving the car and two cans and a hose.

Mr. Meyers and Mr. Green went to the police booth and the incident was reported to Officer Thomas Armstrong. A few minutes later the two boys appeared at the booth and reported that the car owned by one of them had been "stolen" some time before. After some questioning, they admitted that they had been at the truck, and were using the hose to siphon the fuel into their cans.

After some consideration, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the boys' parents.

NEW LIFT INSTALLED

A new "lift" for automobiles has been installed at Olin Russell's Ford garage. The lift, which operates by compressed air, raises a car off the floor far enough so that mechanics can work upright under it. It is used mainly for lubrication work.

Population Of Township Nearly Triples Since '20

1930 Census Shows 3,452 In Farmington Township, Compared With 1,317 In 1920

Farmington Township's population has nearly tripled in the past ten years, it was indicated Thursday by a preliminary report of the 1930 census figures. According to the report, which is subject to revision, the population of the Township today is 3,452, as compared with 1,317 in 1920. The enumeration has been practically completed by Census Taker Herbert Lindstrom.

This represents a gain in percentage of 162 per cent, which is believed to be one of the largest gains shown by any township in the County. The gain in numbers is 2,135.

The increase in population in the Township was accompanied by a decrease in the number of farms, but not as large as was expected. There are 124 farms in the Township now, as compared with 153 in 1920.

The Township population of 3,452 added to the City total amounted some time ago, 1927, gives the Farmington community a total over 5,000 people. The Township and City census figures together total 4,690 people, but Wayne County residents who are a part of the Farmington community are not included, having been enumerated in the Wayne County census. This includes much of the West Point Park and Clarenceville sections.

Together the Township and City show a gain of 2,520, or 117 per cent over the 1920 census. The combined population of the Township and village in 1920 was 2,170.

Exceeds Estimates

The Township population for 1930 greatly exceeded expectations of the Government statisticians, it is understood, it having been calculated that the figure would not run much over 2,000.

An interesting tabulation was that of small farms, particularly poultry, which are enumerated on the "incidental farms" list. There are 26 of these in the Township.

FARMINGTON MAN HEADS GROUP FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Begins Work At Ann Arbor With University Students As Nucleus Of Effort

The first important step in a campaign of organization for good citizenship is to be begun within the next few days by John Fuller, of Oakland road, Farmington, who has for some time been developing his plan for improving the conditions of government and citizenship in this country.

Mr. Fuller left Thursday morning for Ann Arbor, where he will begin work as chairman of the advisory group, with five University students. These students and others expected to join the work later will serve as nucleus for the comprehensive plan which Mr. Fuller has formulated.

The theory upon which Mr. Fuller's plan is based is that neglect of citizenship duties on the part of citizens, constantly increasing, presents the danger of the country and the government going into the hands of the underworld gangs, anti-social organizations, and corrupt political gangs, and that this can be counter-acted only by an intelligent, active organized movement in which the younger generation is inspired with the ideal of putting the general welfare of the people of one's country above one's individual welfare.

Mr. Fuller has issued a booklet outlining the principles of his plan, and including endorsements of it by President A. D. Ruten of the University, Dean W. J. Shepard of Ohio State University, and Stewart Edward White, author, and others.

MEETING POSTPONED

On account of Achievement day the North Farmington Cemetery Auxiliary are postponing their meeting and supper which will be held at the West Bloomfield Town Hall May 27th.