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Progress Made In Rural School System Is Told

Deputy Commissioner Outlines
Achievements Of "Helping
Teacher" Method

The remarkable progress and improvement that has been made in Oakland County rural school education was outlined before the Farmington Exchange Club Tuesday noon by Archie G. Leonard, deputy commissioner of schools. Mr. Leonard told his audience that as a result of the program begun some years ago by Commissioner E. J. Lederle, pupils in the rural schools of Oakland County have been shown above the average in tests conducted throughout the country, and in some respects ahead of pupils in city schools with their greater facilities.

Mr. Leonard said that he "could speak freely of the advances made because they were begun before he became connected with the commissioner's office." Mr. Lederle became head of the County school system eight years ago.

Vision Of Unity
There are 173 school districts in the County, 138 of them under the supervision of the County School Commissioner's office, the speaker said. Mr. Lederle brooded the vision of not 173 little, isolated country schools, but of a unified, co-ordinated, mutually helpful system.

The first great advance was made in the matter of attendance, always a problem in rural schools. From the percentage of 81, this has been advanced every year but one, until last year it reached 92.6, which is even above the average in the city schools of the County, Mr. Leonard said.

Leads State
"Oakland County was the first in Michigan to institute the 'helping teacher' system," said Mr. Leonard. "Four teachers who have themselves taught in the schools of the open country go out each day to help their sisters in various parts of the county. In the old days, the county school commissioner used to visit each school once a year, sit on the platform, look wise, and say nothing. "These teachers do not sit on the platform, look wise and say nothing. They are there to help in a friendly way. They often sit with the pupils at their lessons. They point out in a helpful way to the teacher how her teaching may be improved."

"And here is a remarkable thing. When a girl signs a contract to teach in a rural school in Oakland County, she knows that besides teaching five days a week, she is going to give one Saturday in every month to her work. It is all done voluntarily—they are not paid for it—once each month, the teachers of the schools of each section meet and discuss their problems. If one teacher has been particularly successful in any project, she brings her class, and teaches them, and the others look on and listen. Then next time perhaps another is outstanding in a different subject, and she brings her class in that subject."

"As a result," said Mr. Leonard, "When the rural school pupils of Oakland County took a test that was given to school pupils in every part of the country, a test of the ability of the average student, it was found that the Oakland County boys and girls in the country schools ranked above the average." The test was conducted by disinterested authorities.

Mr. Leonard said that one of the great problems in education at present is equalizing educational facilities, that under the present system it is generally the case that "those districts which pay the highest school tax get the poorest service."

The Business and Professional Woman's Club will meet Monday evening at the home of Mrs. E. Middlewood.

Barbers' War Ended After 'Diplomat' Wears Paths Across Grand River

Farmington's "barbers' price war" has come to an end as suddenly as it began, and now all is quiet on the Grand River front. But not until after a volunteer diplomat, with the patience of Job and the persistence of a vacuum cleaner salesman, had worn weary paths across Grand River avenue in the business section.

While the signs, "All hair-cuts 25 cents" and "All hair-cuts 20 cents" flung their respective challenges across the thoroughfare, Donald Fuller, of Oakland road, a close friend of M. E. Pierce, volunteered his services in bringing the battle to an end. He started with the signature of Mr. Pierce to an agreement, and quickly obtained another name, but in the other barber shops he met difficulties to challenge any diplomat's powers. Back and forth, back and forth for nearly five hours, all of Friday afternoon, went Mr. Fuller. Finally all required names were affixed to the paper, on which so many changes had been made that the agreement bore no resemblance to the original.

The barbers agreed to charge 50 cents for men's hair cuts, 25 cents for children's, and to an earlier closing hour, 7 o'clock, except on Saturdays.

Review Shows 1930 An Eventful Year In History Of Farmington

The year just closed was an eventful one in the history of Farmington area, a review of the year's happenings discloses. Numerous matters of public interest presented themselves, such as the problem of suspension of trolley car service, starting of suit to settle ownership of the Town Hall property, construction of the City of Farmington's new sewer, opening of the new Grand River pavement and others. A number of well-known residents of the community passed away. Herewith is a review of important occurrences of the past 12 months:

Spencer Heeney elected president of Farmington Exchange Club, December 30, 1929.

Charles R. Talbot resigns as president of Peoples State Bank and Savings Bank of Pontiac, January 2.

Melvin O. Guptill, former resident, dies at Hincley, Minn., January 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Sprague celebrate 57th wedding anniversary, January 8.

Bandits rob Kroger store at Novi of \$283, January 11.

Woman's Club presents "Circus Sally," 3-act play, January 13 and 14.

Mrs. Frank Robinson expires, January 17.

Burglars obtain \$60 from pool room of Robert Munnock, January 26.

Eleanor Ward, 13 years old, dies January 28.

Christian Wick dies January 28.

Ralph B. Baker resigns as superintendent of Farmington schools, January 30.

Charles Simmons buried, January 30. Was 93 years old.

Three young men nabbed by Chief Lee Doyle attempting to forge checks, January 30.

Baptist Church Sunday School building dedicated, February 2.

Two holdup men captured here given 25 to 50 and 5 to 10 years respectively by Judge Frank L. Doty, February 6.

James Baker, arrested on farm near here as alleged killer of eight, February 13.

William Clark dies, February 21.

Arthur P. Coe and Harry N. McCracken tie for supervisor at primary election, March 3.

Charles Goers elected highway commissioner; Mark Bachelor, treasurer; Willard Campbell, clerk; Ward Edge, justice of the peace; Don Button, board of review.

Thomas Irving dies, March 5.

Arthur P. Coe wins for supervisor by 3 votes in recount, March 11.

John Dalrymple hired as superintendent of schools, March 13.

Charles M. Brown dies, March 15.

George Gunn died, March 16.

Rev. James A. Callahan suffers serious injuries in auto accident, March 24.

Voters of School district No. 6 defeat bond issue for new school, March 24.

Mrs. J. R. Pettigill of Lansing, State president of the P. T. A., speaks here, March 27.

Mrs. Minnie Talman Geister dies, March 28.

Joseph DeVriendt appointed County deputy here, April 1.

Census taking started April 2.

All Republican nominees win in township election, April 7.

Mrs. Kate Banfield elected worthy matron of O. E. S. chapter April 8.

Begin work to complete fill at bridge on Grand River in Farmington, April 10.

Almeron Blivell family injured in auto crash, April 13.

Ben Meyers, special deputy, is dismissed by Sheriff Frank Seftman, April 15.

Charles Goers dies, April 16.

Petitions asking recall of school trustees, District No. 5 submitted April 21.

City of Farmington population gains 45 per cent. 1920, census figures revealed April 24.

Charles T. Oldenburg dies, April 27.

William Thomas, 33, former resident, dies in Fremont, O., April 27.

Mrs. Mary Smith dies at West Point Park, May 7.

Begin paving of cement on Grand River cut-off, May 12.

Mrs. Julia Wheeler severely burned in fire at West Point Park May 14, dies May 16.

Township of Farmington population announced as 3,452, nearly tripled since 1920.

Cleo Johns, Detroit, killed in crash on Grand River at Town Line road, June 7.

Harrison Johnson elected president of Exchange Club, June 11.

F. H. S. honor banquet, June 12.

Twenty-eight receive F. H. S. diplomas, June 19, with Prof. Paul Misner of Michigan State Normal commencement speaker.

F. H. S. Alumni banquet, June 20.

Walter Crouch, Detroit, killed in auto crash near Novi, July 1.

Mayor Lamb named vice-chairman of Board of Supervisors, July 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Edwards celebrate golden wedding anniversary, July 4.

Gunmen Bind Gas Station Man And Wife, Steal \$60

Eight-Mile Road Couple Tied Up
In Home By Three Bandits;
Hunt Is On

Police of this section are searching for three youthful bandits, who Sunday night robbed Frank Smith, proprietor of a filling station on the Eight-Mile road, east of Farmington road, after tying up Smith and his wife. The bandits took \$60 from Smith and ransacked the house, taking several articles of small value.

Smith closed his filling station at 8 p. m. Sunday night, and had just entered his house in rear of the station, when he heard a knock at the door. When he opened the door, one of the bandits flashed a gun, ordering Smith to "stick 'em up." Then the three men made their way into the house, and while two of them covered Smith and his wife with guns, the other proceeded to tie Smith and his wife with rope they had carried with them. The robbers placed them face down on the bed, Smith said.

The intruders ransacked the house, picking up several articles. They were in the house about ten minutes, according to Smith. After the bandits had departed, Smith freed himself quickly, untied his wife, and gave chase to the bandits. They made their escape east on Eight-Mile road, heading for Grand River. Farmington and Redford police were notified.

Smith said that the three men had four guns among them. They were, he said, about 24 or 25 years old, and well-dressed. "They conversed in a foreign language, while ransacking in the house," Smith's three children, who were in bed, were unmolested by the gunmen. Smith is 34 years old and his wife, Cora, is 23.

THAYER TO STAY IN COUNTY DRAIN OFFICE TO APR. 1

Farmington Man To Compile
History Of County Drains
Before Leaving

A change in the county drain commissioner's office effective Thursday, January 1, will result in the departure from office about April 1, of John C. Thayer of Farmington, second deputy drain commissioner. Mr. Thayer is himself a former county drain commissioner, having held the office from 1896 to 1900.

Announcement of changes in the personnel of the office was made Monday by Murray D. Van Wagoner, drain commissioner-elect. Mr. Van Wagoner was the only Democrat elected to office last fall in the County. Mr. Thayer will be retained for the coming three months, to compile a history of Oakland County drains, with which he has been familiar for 35 years.

Mr. Thayer is one of the oldest officials on the County rolls, few if any others being able to date their connection with the County back to 1896.

After leaving the drain commissioner's office in 1900, Mr. Thayer was affiliated with each of the commissioners in an unofficial way, until a deputy commissioner was provided for. Mr. Thayer was associated with one drain commissioner, James M. Butler, for 17 years.

Economy Move

In making his announcement, Mr. Van Wagoner said that he has promised the people of Oakland County, during his campaign to save them \$5,400 a year by eliminating the services of a registered civil engineer. He said that he was not only fulfilling that promise, but saving a greater amount, \$7,600.

The \$5,400 saving pointed out by Mr. Van Wagoner represents the salary of N. W. Strait, chief engineer, who was not reappointed.

Made Wayne Official



George E. Gullen, former pastor of West Point Park Community Church and active in West Point affairs, has been named an assistant prosecuting attorney of Wayne County.

Dairy Cans Used In Gas Thefts

Pair Arrested By Deputy Tamm
In Detroit After Entering
Farmhouse

Two men were arrested in Detroit this week by Deputy William Tamm of Farmington, and are charged with breaking and entering a house between Milford and New Hudson and stealing furniture, rugs and dishes. They are also charged with having stolen two milk cans of the Warner Dairy Company of Farmington, and were using them as containers of gasoline which they stole from various sources, it is alleged.

The two men are William Smith, 30, and Claude DeGeer, 31, both of Detroit. Examination has been set for January 7. DeGeer has a police record, and has served time in Ionia Reformatory.

The house entered is owned by the Ward estate, of which Charles B. Ward is administrator. The house was unoccupied at the time of the robbery.

FUNERAL IS HELD FOR SOUTHFIELD SECTION LEADER

Community Mourns Passing Of
John Mathison, Active In
Affairs

Funeral services were held on Tuesday for John W. Mathison, of Southfield Community, who died Sunday in Harper Hospital, Detroit, after a brief illness. Death followed an operation for stomach trouble.

Mr. Mathison, who was 67 years old, was a leader in Southfield Community affairs, and a former president of the community association. The flag over the association hall was placed at half mast in respect to his memory.

Surviving the deceased are his widow, Mrs. Mary Mathison, and a daughter, Mrs. Lewis Dowsett. Mr. Mathison was for over 30 years a member of Jubilee lodge of Oddfellows, No. 452 in Detroit. He was a native of London, Ont.

Burial took place in Grand Lawn cemetery. Services were at the residence.

Send in your news items.

ed. Mr. Thayer's salary was \$2,100 a year. Louis C. Jarrendt was reappointed first deputy.

Mr. Thayer said Wednesday that he has not yet discussed with Mr. Van Wagoner the work he is to do after January 1, and that he has no intention of retiring, after leaving the county drain office. He indicated that he will take up some work connected with surveying.

State Heads To Consider Trolley Situation, Report

Suspension Of Service Wednesday Night Averted By Another Extension

While another 15-day extension at the last moment preserved trolley service for the time being, reports reached Farmington Wednesday of new hope from Lansing for the trolley system.

The report was to the effect that the State Highway Department and the State Administrative Board would in the near future give new consideration to the question of retaining the trolley system, on Grand River avenue.

According to the reports, the circulation of petitions with thousands of signatures of citizens and property-owners, from Farmington as far down as Redford, and a considerable area north and south, has created a powerful impression on the State officials as to the desire for continuance of the rail system.

The new State Administrative Board is to organize soon after the incoming administration takes office.

Outlook Brighter

Citizens laboring in behalf of the trolley line are much more optimistic than they have been during the past month, and the belief is expressed that if as much progress can be made in the next few weeks as has been accomplished recently, the tracks through to Farmington can be saved.

Notification of the second 15-day extension came to Farmington Wednesday, not many hours before the time set for suspension of street car service, which will continue uninterrupted at least until January 14.

COLLECTION OF TOWNSHIP, CITY TAXES TO BEGIN

Treasurers Announce Starting
Of Annual Task Friday And
Saturday At Bank

The long delay in collection of taxes in Farmington Township and City, over which few tears have been shed, is over. Collection of the annual levy will begin Friday, for City taxpayers, and Saturday for property-owners of the Township.

The month's delay was due to difficulty in spreading the County tax, following disagreement and court action regarding equalization.

George C. Gildemeister, City treasurer, will receive taxes beginning Friday morning, at the Peoples State Bank, and each day thereafter during business hours. Mark D. Bachelor, township treasurer, will start collection at the same place on Saturday morning. Mr. Bachelor will continue at the Peoples State Bank through next week, and will be at the Farmington State Savings Bank the week of January 12. Thereafter he will alternate between the two banks.

The collection period is beginning almost exactly one month later than usual.

License Plate Time Extended To Feb. 1

Extension of time on 1930 automobile license plates until February 1st was announced Wednesday by Chief of Police Lee Doyle of Farmington.

Chief Doyle stated he had received a telegram from Secretary of State John Hagerly requesting that 1930 plates be honored until February 1. It is reported that the incoming Secretary of State, Frank Fitzgerald, some time ago expressed himself in favor of extension until March 1.