

The Farmington Enterprise

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Final Report Is Made On Grand River Sidewalks

State To Pay More Than Half For Cost Of Construction Of Sidewalk

Members of the sidewalk committee of the City Commission completed a final checkup this week of the total amount of sidewalk laid in Farmington this fall together with the costs preparatory to submitting a final report to the State Highway Department which is to return to the City a large part of the construction costs. It is estimated by Leo Gildemeister, chairman of the sidewalk committee, that nearly \$1,400 will be received by the City from the State as its share in laying the new walks.

Figures compiled by Commissioner Gildemeister show that 18,580 square feet of sidewalks, exclusive of steps and retaining walls, have been built in Farmington this fall at a cost of 12.7 cents per square foot. The total cost of walks amounts to approximately \$2,400, \$1,000 of which is paid by the City.

An interesting comparison in the costs of building retaining walls and terraces was shown in Commissioner Gildemeister's tabulations. Three terraces were built at a total cost of \$75, whereas as three retaining-falls cost the City \$420. The average cost for one terrace against one retaining wall is \$25 to \$140, or nearly six to one.

Motion was done on the south side of Grand River than on the north side, but there still remains 325 running feet on the south side where walks have not been built. It is expected that 100 feet of this will be built in front of the American Legion and Ben Meyers properties, but the remaining 225 feet represents the frontage of the four property owners who refused to grant releases for the sidewalk construction.

To Repair Caves-ins
The heavy rainfalls of the past week, the heaviest in two years, brought an unusual misfortune in regard to the new sidewalks. Several short stretches between Power and Brookdale avenues, totaling about 150 feet, settled several inches, causing the blocks to tilt. None of the cement was broken, the walk having been laid in four-foot blocks, permitting quick and easy repair. All of the blocks are intact, and need only to be leveled up.

The difficulty illustrated the advantage of foresight exercised in laying the walks in unit blocks instead of as a solid stretch. When the question of which type of walk to lay came up last summer, choice of the two types either "cressed" or single-blocks was afforded. The sidewalk committee decided in favor of the unit block type, the only additional requirement for that kind being an expansion-joint each 60 feet. Had the walk been laid with only cresses between the blocks, it would probably have been necessary to relay the entire stretch, instead of simply lifting and replacing the blocks, all that is necessary now.

Study of the walk indicated that the laying of the sewer a year ago had not caused the cave-in, as was at first thought likely. The sewer is several feet to the south of the walk. In digging for the sewer the contractor reported that the ground in that section was largely quicksand. The earth had been packed hard by the past two years of exceptionally dry weather, but the frequent hard rains in the past two weeks led to a considerable shifting of the quicksand, resulting in the dropping of the walks. Plans for leveling up the tilted blocks are under consideration. The cost is not expected to be large.

WANTS BOOKS RETURNED

The librarian would appreciate it if all books overdue were returned Saturday afternoon, especially the 1931 books.

The public library was recently presented with several good books by Merton Wheeler and Mr. Farland.

Union Thanksgiving Service Is Planned

Thanksgiving will be observed in Farmington with a union service of three churches to be held Thanksgiving morning in the Farmington Baptist Church at 10:30. Rev. Floyd Charles Johnson will give the address. Rev. A. A. Schoen and Rev. E. W. Palmer will also speak. All in the community are invited to attend.

Couple Testify - Not On Same Side

Stranded Husband And Wife Take Opposite Views In Court Case

Farmington this week is sending to Oakland County Circuit Court a legal battle which ordinarily might be of slight interest, but which because of two witnesses, provides as strange a situation as the courts have seen in a long time. The witnesses are a husband and wife, already before the court in divorce proceedings, and now further opposing each other by testifying on opposite sides in a suit between other parties. Still another odd aspect of the case is the testimony of two witnesses against their uncle, in behalf of another man.

The case was heard before Municipal Judge John J. Schulte of Farmington last Thursday evening. It goes to Circuit Court as William J. Villier vs. Ira LaPlue, but the figures of chief interest are E. J. Eichelberger and his wife, Emma, whose divorce case is pending.

The suit is for recovery of the proceeds of a truck garden operated last summer on the Eichelberger farm on Orchard Lake road. The Eichelbergers, widely known for their eggs and baby chicks, are now in business separately. Mr. Eichelberger having established the Puller Poultry Farm a few rods south of the original Eichelberger place, from (Continued on page five)

LACK DIRECTOR. WILL NOT HAVE "THE LATCH-KEY"

None On Faculty To Supervise Editing Of School Paper This Year

In response to a number of inquiries regarding "The Latch Key," student newspaper heretofore published in the Enterprise by the pupils of the Farmington High School, it is stated this week that definite decision has been made not to publish the student paper this year, there being no member of the faculty to direct the publication.

Until last year the work was part of the course of the English department. Last year, however, Principal R. C. Burns stepped into the breach and took charge, after Mrs. Robbie Harrison, teacher of English, had decided that she preferred to conduct a class in dramatics.

Mr. Burns was aided considerably by Lynn Rohrer, commercial class teacher, and his typing class. This year Mr. Burns has had the additional duties of football coach, and found it impossible to handle the school paper work.

Earlier in the school year the school authorities had hoped to be able to start "The Latch Key" again but no way was found. However, the school authorities will co-operate with the Enterprise in publication of the more important news regarding school activities in the Enterprise news columns.

CLEAN UP DAYS

The City Commission has named Tuesday, November 24 and Wednesday, November 25 as clean up days. Will citizens and all others interested kindly place tin cans and other rubbish where the City truck can have easy access to the same?

N. H. Power, City Clerk.

Rites Held For Alexander Keith, Accident Victim

Well-Known Farmington Man Killed In Automobile Accident Saturday

Funeral services for Alexander S. Keith well-known Farmington resident who met a tragic death in an automobile accident Saturday night, were held from the residence on Grand River avenue Wednesday afternoon. Interment was at Wallied Lake. He was 50 years old.

Mr. Keith died Saturday night.

Keith's Death 'Annual' Grid Traffic Fatality

The tragic death of "Alex" Keith of Farmington in a traffic accident on Grand River Saturday evening proved to be the 1931 fatality associated with the college football season. Every autumn of recent years has been marked by at least one death in the heavy volume of Grand River traffic attending the gridiron contests.

At 9:15 at the Redford Receiving Hospital following injuries received three hours earlier, one-half mile west of the Novi-Farmington Township line on Grand River, when the truck which he was driving was hit from the rear by a Ford sedan containing a party of six boy scouts from Redford, who were returning from Ann Arbor where they had witnessed a football game.

Redford Boys In Car

The names of the boys were given by Deputy Sheriff William Tamm as Walter Hovey, who was driving, Bill Blair, Rob Nolte, Winston Bostich, Ted Hovey and Roger Harrison. All the boys were 15 years of age or younger.

Mr. Keith had a trailer attached to his truck carrying four street-car rails and a portable saw-mill. The driver of the Ford, according to sheriff's officers, did not see the rear of Mr. Keith's trailer until he crashed into it, driving one of the rails through the cab of the Keith truck and pinning Mr. Keith against the emergency brake. Mr. Keith is known to have had a red lantern and a red flag on the rear of his trailer but whether or not the lantern was lighted at the time of the crash is not known. Mr. Keith had stopped at Brighton and obtained an additional lantern. The visibility was very poor at the time due to a driving rain and a low-hanging fog.

Mr. Keith was unable to stop his truck until he had gone a quarter of a mile beyond the scene of the accident, the steel rail holding him helpless in the cab. Upon halting the truck, he got out of the cab and stumbled and crept back to the scene, anxious of the condition of the parties in the other car as the Ford had left the road and rolled into a ditch on the north side of the road. The boys were unaware of the condition of Mr. Keith, thinking that he had proceeded on his way unharmed.

Mr. Keith reached the home of L. C. Sprague and from there officers and medical attention were summoned. He was rushed to the hospital but a hasty examination revealed that he had suffered internal injuries which proved fatal within a short time.

At Wallied Lake 27 Years Alexander, Stephen, Keith was born November 10, 1879 at Balsam, Ontario. In 1891 he moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Keith, to Wallied Lake where he lived until 1918 when he moved to Farmington.

March 30, 1898, he married Letta C. Keith. He and his wife had two children, Mrs. Frank Shotwell of Oriskany Lake and Stephen of Farmington, both of whom survive.

Besides the widow and children Mr. Keith is survived by two half brothers, James Mairs of Brockton, Mass., and William Mairs of Novi. A sister, Nellie, preceded him in death.

Farmington Women Keep Faith In Prohibition, Vote Of Club Shows

Farmington women still believe in and have faith in the Prohibition Law, despite the many and increasing attacks upon it from various quarters, it was indicated Wednesday afternoon. At its regular fortnightly meeting, the club voted about three to one against devoting a part of one of their meetings to a speaker advocating modification of the law.

At the meeting Mrs. Fred L. Cook reported that Mrs. M. T. Burrows of Farmington had asked her to place before the club a request that it invite a speaker to talk on the subject of prohibition reform at a meeting in the near future.

Will Try Bakery Driver Nov. 25th

Andrew Watson Charged With Peddling In Violation Of City Ordinance

Andrew Watson, 1207 Bird St., Birmingham, truck driver for the Mills Baking Company of Detroit, will be tried in Farmington Justice court Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock on a charge of peddling in Farmington without a license, in violation of a City Ordinance.

Watson was arrested last Friday at the residence of Sheldon Beck with on Grand River avenue by Ben Myers.

According to Lee Doyle, chief of police, Watson has been peddling baked goods in Farmington for some time in spite of several warnings. The belief has been expressed by police officials that an attempt is being made by the Mills Baking Company to bring the issue to a higher court and have the Farmington ordinance declared void. The ordinance forbidding peddling provides for a license fee of \$2 per day or for a blanket license covering one year, \$200.

Watson was arraigned last week and pleaded not guilty. The trial was originally set for this week Thursday but a postponement until Wednesday was granted Chief Doyle by John J. Schulte, justice of the peace.

HARVEST DINNER, BARN DANCE HELD AT W. POINT PARK

Presbyterian Church Scene Of Party For Members And Friends

The Community Hall of West Point Park Presbyterian church was the scene of a party for members and friends of the congregation last Friday evening, at seven o'clock. The entertainment was in the form of a Harvest Dinner followed by a Barn Dance sponsored by the young people. Among the many friends in attendance were a large group from the Union Guardian Trust Company and another group from Fort Street Presbyterian church.

The decoration of the dining hall was tastefully carried out in Fall colors. Chrysanthemums and colored candles gave a festive air to the tables. Miss Marjorie Pierpont was chairman of the decoration committee and was ably assisted by the young ladies and the young men. Miss Fern Ault was ticket chairman.

During the dinner music was furnished by radio interspersed with violin selections played by Harold Gullen. Miss Ernestine Wolfe was chief of hostesses. Mrs. Robert Fredericks presided over the kitchen.

As soon as dinner was over those in farmer costume formed a column for the Grand March. Prizes were awarded to Miss Mabel Hubbard of Fort Street for the prettiest farmer maid, to Bob Hunter of West Point Park for the best farmer boy and to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tamm and their daughters, Leone and Edna May, of Farmington for the most realistic farmer family.

Little Hope Of Saving 16 Trees Along The Park

Forestry Men Say Moving Would Be Costly, Trees Might Not Live

Indications are now that the 16 trees on the north side of Grand River avenue between Farmington Road and Oakland Road cannot be saved, due to the widening program planned by the State Highway Department. While it is almost certain that the trees will not be disturbed this year and that further efforts will be made to save them, developments of the past week have been unfavorable to their preservation.

The question of whether the trees could be moved back into inside the sidewalk was quickly determined. Two forestry engineers, A. T. Messer, the Oakland County forester, and Merrill Sweet, forester for the Detroit Edison Co., accompanied by Mr. O'Neill of the State Highway Department, came to Farmington to look over the situation. The tree experts decided at once that moving the trees was hardly to be considered. Removal of the larger ones would cost at least \$1,000 each, the foresters declared. Further, there is no certainty that the trees would live, and in fact it is necessary, they said, to figure on a part of them dying after transfer.

It would take 20 feet of the street is now 40 feet between Farmington Road and the Nelson Sisters' store and 30 feet from there west to Oakland Road. It's the plan of the state, according to understanding here, to make the street 50 feet wide to Oakland Road and 40 feet wide from there on.

Mr. Power suggested that if the State plans to make Grand River only 40 feet wide from Oakland west, it might be left at the 40-foot width from the Nelson store west to Oakland, the point being that the additional half-block of 40-foot instead of 50-foot pavement would not make much difference in the highway.

Insist On Plan

City officials, however say that the State has determined on its plans as outlined, and that unless the Highway Department is able to do the widening in Farmington just as it desires, it will do nothing more and leave all the widening west of Farmington road to be done by the City. The estimated cost of the widening is \$20,000, which is viewed as a gain of just that much to the city.

Nine of the 16 trees are in the west end block, along the present 40-foot pavement, so that if the State can be induced to accept the suggestion mentioned above, more than half the trees could be saved.

The Exchange Club, to which Mr. Power reported Wednesday as a member of the tree committee, continued the matter in the hands of Mr. Power, who plans to carry on his efforts to save the trees. The services of Mr. Sweet were provided by the Edison Company without charge, as a service to the community, the offering having been a voluntary one on the part of the company.

Harold Sleep, Injured In Traffic Crash, Improved

Harold Sleep of Farmington, who was painfully injured in an automobile accident last week, is reported much improved. He is still at the Royal Oak Private hospital and probably will not be removed until next week. He suffered a compound fracture of the left arm.

Sleep was driving a truck for the Novi Oil and Gas Corporation which collided Thursday with an automobile driven by Frank C. Merchem of Highland Park, at Ten Mile and Greenfield roads. Sleep's truck overturned, pinning him in the cab. Merchem escaped unharm.

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY

The Farmington Public Schools will be closed Friday following Thanksgiving Day, according to J. A. Dalrymple, superintendent.

Gives Book Review

A brilliant book review which called forth many expressions of admiration was given at the Club meeting by Miss Katherine Sprague. Miss Sprague's review was of "The Education of a Princess," by Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, niece of the late Czar, who shared the perils of the royal family during the revolution and narrowly escaped out of Russia into Germany with her husband, an army officer.

Miss Sprague covered the groundwork of the book in minute and interesting detail, speaking fluently for two hours without reference to notes.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Roy Brown, on Wednesday, December 2. The meeting Wednesday was at the home of Mrs. L. C. Thayer.

ANNUAL DRIVE FOR RED CROSS FUNDS IS NOW UNDERWAY

Membership Fee May Be Left At Bank Or Enterprise Office

The American Red Cross has, this year, completed 50 years of service to humanity. It has as a side the period between Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day for the conduct of its annual Red Cross Call.

The Red Cross has been of great assistance in filling claims for ex-service men, and has taken a great interest in the welfare of the men, besides its quick response to disaster relief work.

Oakland County Red Cross Chapter, working thru its various township directors, is desirous of securing its quota of memberships.

For several years Farmington has sent in the second largest membership in the County. This year there will be no household canvases for memberships but all are asked to join the Red Cross by leaving the one dollar (\$1.00) membership fee at the Peoples State Bank or at the Enterprise office from where it will be sent to the County Chapter at Pontiac.

ENGAGEMENT OF NOVI GIRL MADE KNOWN AT PARTY

Mr. And Mrs. George Bassett Announce Engagement Of Daughter, Donna

The home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bassett of Novi was the scene of an attractive dinner party Saturday evening at which time the engagement of their daughter, Donna to Chester Wallace of Eaton Rapids, was announced.

The table was laid for 16 with pink roses, white baby mums and Delft blue tapers.

The guests included, Misses Marcia Ward, Ruth Johnson, Lucille Ketcham, Dorothy Rebkopf, Ruth Lotimore, Elizabeth Gully, Esther Harris and Ragna Anderson and Mesdames Wade, McDonald and Christopherson all of Detroit and members of the Visiting House Keepers Association, of which Miss Bassett is also a member, and Mrs. Grace Case and Master Billy McDonald also of Detroit.

Alfred O'Donnell of East Lansing was in Farmington Thursday visiting friends. He stopped here on his way to Cincinnati.