

The Farmington Enterprise

Forty-fourth Year—No. 4.

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1931

5 cents a Copy

State Tax Body Declares It Has Not Raised Taxes

Commission Defends Action In Recent Re-Assessment of County Property

Declaring that "the revaluations made by the State Tax Commission—have not added a single dollar to the total tax bill of Oakland County or of any township or city of the County," the State Tax Commission issued a statement this week defending its action in the recent re-assessment of Oakland County and answering protests filed by citizens of the County against the re-assessment.

The Commission points out in its statement that the same sum of money would have been spread on the rolls for this December if the Commission had stayed out of the County and added that increases in certain valuations have been accompanied by proportionate decreases in others, giving as the reason that "some property owners had in the past been unduly favored at the expense of other owners."

The complete statement of the State Tax Commission follows:

"In view of the wide publicity which has been given to the work of the State Tax Commission in Oakland County and the misunderstanding which has developed in that County as to what has actually taken place, the following statement to Oakland County taxpayers is issued as the first of a series that are being prepared to clarify the situation.

"Rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, the revaluations made by the State Tax Commission and certified after the recent public hearings have not added a single dollar to the total tax bill of Oakland County or of any township or city of the County.

Distribution Only Change

"No more, and no less, State taxes have fallen upon the County and no more, and no less, State and County taxes have fallen upon any city or township because of the Commission's activities. No local levies have been increased by the Commission. Exactly the same sum of money would have been spread on the rolls for this December if the Commission had stayed entirely out of the County. The amount of all of these taxes was determined entirely independent of the re-assessments. The re-assessments have had only one effect. They have changed the distribution of the tax burden among the individual taxpayers residing (Continued on page five)

CARL PETERS DIES SUDDENLY AT HOME NEAR FARMINGTON

Deceased Was Born In Wildberg, Germany, Seventy-Nine Years Ago

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon for Carl Frederick August Peters, who died suddenly at his home south-east of Farmington early Monday morning. Interment was at Clareville cemetery, Rev. A. A. Schoen, pastor of the Evangelical church, officiating. Mr. Peters was 79 years old.

Mr. Peters came to the United States 44 years ago from Germany where he was born in Wildberg, Germany. He was living a short time in Detroit moved with his wife to this vicinity where he has lived since then. His health had been failing for the past four years.

Carl Frederick August Peters was born November 14, 1852 in Wildberg, Pommern. He served three years in the German army and on October 13, 1881, he was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Riedel. They spent six years in Germany before coming to the United States in 1887, settling in Detroit, where they lived nearly two years before moving to the vicinity of Farmington.

Mr. Peters is survived by his widow, a number of brothers and 27 nephews and nieces, some of whom still live in Germany.

Boy Picked Up On "Hunch," Leads Cops To Companions Stealing Gas

A 14-year old boy, terrified by police who questioned him closely, led sheriff's officers to the scene of a gasoline robbery Monday night and as a result, two youths drew jail sentences with the alternative of paying fines and the boy is being held at the County Detention Home at Pontiac.

Carl Leavenworth, 20, Route 2, Walpole Lake, and Jay Holmes, 19, of 626 Union street, Milford, are the two youths who drew sentences of either 20 days in jail or \$25 fine. Lloyd Holmes, the 14-year old boy being detained at Pontiac, is a brother of Jay.

Lloyd was picked up by Officers W. C. Lowry and Joseph DeVriendt on the Twelve Mile road west of Farmington road, when he was observed driving

around, apparently waiting for someone. Upon being closely questioned by the officers, the boy broke down and told them that his two companions were at the French farm on the Fourteen Mile road, three and one-half miles west of Farmington road, stealing gasoline and that he was waiting to pick them up.

Officers Lowry and DeVriendt got into the rear of Holmes car and had him drive them to the scene and give the pre-arranged signal to his companions. They readily came out from the side of the road with a quantity of gasoline.

They were taken to Pontiac and after being lodged in jail all night, were arraigned the following morning.

Reader Praises Keith's Heroism

Ben C. Hughes, In Letter To Enterprise, Praises Accident Victim

With words of high praise for the late Alexander Keith, who met death in a traffic accident two weeks ago, Ben C. Hughes, Detroit attorney, characterized him as "a fine man" who placed the welfare of others above his own, even to the point of giving his own life, in a letter to the Enterprise this week.

Mr. Hughes' letter follows: Editor Farmington Enterprise

I was deeply touched when I read the Enterprise account of how Death came to Alex Keith.

I pictured that grey evening on Grand River; the low hanging fog; the driving rain, the swift rear-end collision that drove the heavy rail like a bolt of doom against Keith in the driver's seat; the agonized quarter mile the stricken man rolled on until he was able to get out of his truck. And then the supreme test of innate character. No craven hit-and-run motorist he. The Death's immunities already filmed his eyes, his that was not of himself but of how fared the occupants of the car that had rushed from out of the mists of the Night to deal him that mortal hurt.

Visualize our friend, stumbling and creeping, dragging his crushed body over the rain soaked road that long quarter mile back to the scene of the accident.

And for what? Verily, to succor the strangers whose car, he thought, lay crippled in the ditch. For this fine deed his friends may well revere his memory.

The four lads in the colliding car, seemingly unaware that Mr. Keith had been injured by the impact, themselves unharmed, had righted the sedan and driven on. Just another fatal traffic crash. Just another life blotted out on the Highway. That's what strangers will say. But we who knew him know that a fine man was taken when Alexander Keith went on to meet his Maker.

It may well have been the pain wracked journey back to the scene of the collision that caused him to succumb. If he had that first of himself perhaps he might today be living.

To paraphrase the Book: Great love has no count. It is this, that he lived his life for others. All or then, to your late fellow townsman, Alexander Keith.

Ben C. Hughes

Condition Of Physician Is Fair—Wife Injured

Dr. E. F. Holcomb, who was operated upon in Harper hospital in Detroit Monday, returned to Farmington today. Thinking being was to be taken back to Detroit Friday for a second operation. His condition was given as fair.

Mrs. Holcomb was struck by an automobile and slightly injured Monday when leaving the hospital. Her knee was bruised.

Treasurer Bonds Puzzle Officials

City And Township Authorities Face Difficulties As Tax Time Nears

How and where to obtain satisfactory treasurer's bonds at reasonable figures to protect the State and County taxes which will be collected in the coming months is a problem that is bothering Farmington Township and City officials, along with others throughout Oakland County.

In former years the treasurers have been bonded, according to law, for twice the amount of the tax roll to be collected. There has been no trouble in getting bonds—in fact, the competition, however, has come a sharp difference in bond conditions. Bonding companies are quoting at double the previous rate, which was two dollars a thousand. At first rates were reported as high as \$10 a thousand, but quotations are now made at \$4. In addition, the bonding companies have been reserving the right to name the depositories, but at least one company has come forward within the last few days and waived that reservation.

Two definite efforts have been started by the officials to solve the problem. One is an attempt to bring before Civil Council George Cram, of the County, to have the "double" requirement removed, so that the cost of bonds would not be so high. State officials at Lansing are asked to aid in this. Another suggestion is that every township and city treasurer be made a deputy county treasurer, which might dodge the problem, but still leave the question of protecting the cash, in view of holdups, etc.

One other suggestion was made but treasurers quickly answered that. It was that they give personal bonds, but in that case one treasurer in the county would have to provide a bond of a million dollars and many, if not most of them would have to give bond for more than they ever hope to possess.

Make Preparations For Grand Officer's Visit

Officers of Farmington Chapter, O. E. S., will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 at the chapter room to make preparations for a visit of the Grand Worthy Master.

Among the Farmington people who attended a special meeting of the Pontiac chapter of O. E. S. Monday night were Mr. and Mrs. Ben C. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Coe, Mrs. Harrison Johnson, Mrs. Carl Hinder, Mrs. Henry West and Mrs. Ethel Liddell. Mr. St. James and Mrs. Johnson assisted in giving the degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. George Chockett entertained for Thanksgiving dinner, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stark, and Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Stark of Northville and Miss Lou Cole of Royal Oak.

Mills Baking Co. Appeals Case To Circuit Court

Driver Of Truck Found Guilty In Justice Court On Peddling Charge

Andrew Watson, truck driver for the Mills Baking Co., of Detroit, was found guilty Wednesday morning in Justice Court of peddling in Farmington without a license as required by a City ordinance. Watson was fined \$25 or 15 days in jail. The verdict was immediately appealed and Watson was released on a \$50 cash bond. The case will be heard in the next term of court which begins December 7.

Watson was arrested November 13 by Ben Meyers at the residence of Sheldon Beckwith where Myers testified he found Watson peddling goods without a license. Tip-on being arraigned before Justice John J. Schulte, Watson pleaded not guilty.

Asked For Dismissal

Watson, through his attorney, Charles Heemans of Detroit, asked for a dismissal on the grounds that the ordinance was unreasonable, void and discriminating. He maintained that a fee of \$2 a day or \$200 a year is confiscatory, a revenue measure and not regulatory.

Judge Schulte denied the motion, holding that the ordinance was valid and the charge reasonable.

The ordinance was set up in 1895 by the Village council and was written by the late Governor Fred M. Warner. This is the first time the ordinance has been contested.

Suggests \$25 Fee

It is the opinion of officials that the Mills Baking Co., is intent upon peddling its goods in Farmington without meeting the requirements of the City as specified in the ordinance. According to Lee Doyle, chief of police representative of the firm once suggested to him that \$25 would be a reasonable yearly fee.

Watson had been warned several times by police officers and according to Doyle, Watson and other employees of the Mills Baking Co., had deliberately asked for an arrest, one time going so far as to approach Doyle in his own dooryard and accuse him that an attempt was to be made to deliver bread to Doyle's next door neighbor.

Whether the baking company will continue to send its driver to Farmington to deliver goods pending the Circuit Court's decision is not known, but the police department has pledged itself to uphold the ordinance until a final decision is made.

RESIDENT IN AREA FOR FIFTY YEARS DIES AT PLYMOUTH

Robert Webber, 75 Years Old, Buried In Yerkes Cemetery At Northville

Robert Webber, 75 years old, who has lived in the vicinity of Farmington and Plymouth for the past 50 years, was buried at Yerkes cemetery at Northville Monday. Mr. Webber died Friday at Plymouth at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Nina Fisher.

Mr. Webber was born at Leamington, Ontario, in 1856. When about 25 years of age he came to this vicinity. When in Farmington he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Edith Green, on Oak avenue.

Mr. Webber is survived by his widow, who lives at Plymouth, two brothers, Edward Webber of Pontiac and Ben Webber of Berrien Springs, a sister, Mrs. Jennie Stuckwell of Leamington, Ontario, three daughters, Mr. Nina Fisher and Mrs. Ruby Shepho of Plymouth and Mrs. Edith Green of Farmington, two sons, Ivan of Pontiac and Clarence of Flint, 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Property Owners To Plant 30 Elm Trees

About 30 trees will be planted in one residential section of Farmington, as a result of the offer made by Howard Warner of free elm trees for planting along the streets, to beautify the city.

Wm. G. Malcolmson, owner of several houses on Valley View and Prospect avenues, and other homeowners on the two streets, will co-operate in the planting. Mr. Malcolmson visited Farmington Wednesday and arranged for setting of about two dozen of the young elms along his properties, which will be done next week by Lyman Farrand.

Charles Button Is Shot In Hand

Injured Youth Had Been Hunting In North Woods Two Weeks

Charles Button, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don B. Button of Twelve Mile road, was the victim Monday of the first hunting accident reported involving Farmington hunters this season, when a rifle which he was holding accidentally discharged, the shot striking him in the hand, badly shattering it.

Button was alone, it was reported, when the accident occurred at a hunting camp near Eckerman, not far from Newberry. A hunting party from another camp found him and took him to Newberry where he was placed in a hospital. According to reports to his parents, surgeons were able to save the hand and he with his companions was to leave for Farmington Wednesday noon.

Button left for the north November 12 with Howard McCracken and Ray Schroeder. None of the party had bagged a deer before the accident. Button's companions were reported as returning with him to Farmington, where he will be under a doctor's care for several days.

WM. G. MALCOMSON GOES TO CAPITOL FOR HOOVER MEET

Detroit Architect With Large Farmington Interests Highly Honored

William G. Malcolmson, Detroit architect who has been extensively interested in real estate and building development around Farmington, will leave within the next few days for Washington, D. C., where he will be a member of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership. Selection of Mr. Malcolmson among the architects of the nation to confer with the president is regarded as a recognition of rare distinction.

Mr. Malcolmson has long been regarded as one of the outstanding architects of this part of the country, particularly in the field of school buildings. His firm, Malcolmson, Higginbotham and Trout, has drawn plans for and supervised construction of most of the school buildings erected by the City of Detroit in the past quarter of a century. Mr. Malcolmson is president of the Detroit Building conference.

Although past 70 years of age, Mr. Malcolmson is unusually active and looks after his various interests with keen enjoyment, following each one with close personal attention. He was in Farmington Wednesday for a short time.

The prairie chicken enjoys a high reputation among sportsmen on the western Canadian plains.

Township, City Tax Less Despite Valuation Raise

Reduction Of Expenses More Than Offsets Increase In Assessments By State

Although the valuation of both Farmington Township and City have been increased over local figures by the State Tax Commission, which returned the rolls to Farmington officials a few days ago after the recent re-valuation, the total of the taxes to be paid by property-owners in both the City and Township is less than a year ago. Economies in budget-making more than offset the increase in valuations, and nearly all taxpayers will notice a substantial decrease in their tax-bills.

Township taxes to be raised this year are \$22,105.75 less than in 1930, the 1931 total being \$338,920.55, as compared with \$361,026.30 a year ago.

The State Commission set the value of property in the Township at \$8,645,363. This is \$402,276 higher than the Township supervisor's valuation a year ago, which was \$8,243,087. The difference is much greater, however, between the State's figure and that set this year by the local officials. The Farmington Township supervisor and board of review united in a drastic reduction of valuations last spring, bringing the Township total down to \$6,164,443. The State's assessment total is nearly \$2,500,000 more than this.

City Tax Lower

Farmington city taxes have also been lowered despite assessment increase by the State Tax Commission, the new figures being \$7,474.28 less than the 1930 levy. The tax to be raised for 1931 is \$115,563.81. In 1930 the amount was \$123,088.09.

The new tax rate for the City is \$3.76 less than the 1930 rate per thousand. The new rate is \$24.68, the 1930 rate, \$28.44.

Property valuations in the City have been raised by the Commission \$47,680 over the 1930 valuations and \$535,620 over the 1931 figure as set by the City before the Commission reassessed property values.

The State assessed the City at \$2,671,924, as compared with \$2,136,304, set by Assessor James L. Hogle. The city assessor's total valuation in 1930 was nearer the State's new 1931 figure, having been \$2,624,244.

Following is a table showing comparisons in 1930-1931 figures for Farmington City:

1930, Rate Per One Thousand	1931, Rate Per One Thousand
State tax	\$ 3.92
County tax	6.61
County Road tax	1.43
Drain tax, rejected tax, State Highway-at-large	1.96
Covert road-at-large	2.52
School tax plus one mill	12.00
Total tax rate, 1930	\$28.44
1931, Rate Per One Thousand	\$24.68
State tax	\$3.69
County tax	6.14
County road tax	1.25
Drain, Rejected, State Highway-at-large	1.59
Covert road-at-large	2.79
School tax plus one mill	9.22
Total tax rate, 1931	\$24.68
Reduction in tax rate from 1930,	\$3.76.

Red Cross Christmas Seals To Go On Sale

With better health for all Michigan as their goal, millions of tiny coaches, each drawn by a quartet of diminutive horses, will journey across Michigan between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.

The tiny horses and coaches are part of the old-time coaching scene on the 1931 tuberculosis Christmas seals which will be sent out this week by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association and affiliated local societies. The seal design also included a cheery "Christmas Greetings" and the Double-barred cross, emblem of the anti-tuberculosis movement.

Woodcock are fairly plentiful in certain districts in the Canadian Maritime Provinces.