

The Farmington Enterprise

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Eyman Levinson
William Hone



MEMBER 1932

Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, March 23, 1933

Editorials

Contests Come To The City

A Farmington Township citizen had dropped into a Farmington business-place Saturday evening. He remarked with a smile and with quite evident satisfaction: "Well, you folks in the City have been having some fun watching our election in the Township every year and now for a change we're going to have a little fun, too, looking across the line at yours while we enjoy ours at the same time. It isn't going to be just us this year."

Probably most of the Township is likewise interested to see that the City election this year will be marked by contests for various offices. It is equally probable that those onlookers who are thoughtful citizens will view with approval the fact that there is sufficient interest in city government to bring forth a number of citizens willing to present themselves as candidates for places in the handling of civic affairs.

There is not, and never has been, of course, any question whatever as to the validity of the principle, that contests for office are highly desirable in that they make for better government. This is conceded to be always and everywhere true. The wisdom of this precept was recognized in the original City Charter, the framers of which, strove hard to make a practical application of the principle. The result of their effort was incorporation in the Charter of a section which provided that whenever less than two candidates appeared for any office, it became "the duty of the Commission to complete the ballot by adding such names as may be necessary, so that when the ballot shall be placed before the electors there shall be not less than two candidates for each and every office to be voted on at such election."

Desirable as was the end aimed at by this provision the method was not perfect. Citizens found their names placed on the ballot against their wishes, and some felt considerable embarrassment. This led to amending of the Charter in autumn of 1928, by changing the wording so that the Commission "may", but is not required to, add names of candidates when there is no contest. Yet so strong and unquestioned is the principle that contests make for the public good that there was more than a little opposition to altering even the imperfect arrangement in the original Charter.

There has not been found an infallible means of providing for this in the Charter, but the best of all ways has been supplied this year in the spontaneous awakening of interest among citizens generally, and the appearance of the candidates whom they support. The alert interest of the people is not merely an assurance of good government—it is essential to it. For this reason alone we should encourage rather than discourage contests. We dare not let grow up a kind of tradition that this or that candidate is entitled to his office, any office, merely by his own desire for it, or that it is to be his, by default, in the absence of another to run against him. We dare not permit the development of any such notion as that there is something unbecoming, or some personal or unworthy motive to be ascribed whenever there is circulated a petition which means that there will be "opposition." There is no odium whatsoever attached to the word. Rather, a great deal of good may come from the fact of it, and certainly no harm.

Recognizing, then, that the good of the community may well be served by the presence of numerous candidates in the field, the conscientious citizen will study what is before him and vote intelligently on April 3. May the best candidates win, and once the result is determined, let us all work together for the best interests of all.

Methodists Burn The Mortgage

Probably there is no event that takes place in any small community that exceeds in general pleasure, the happiness which comes when a church, any church, "burns the mortgage." From time-immemorial churches have struggled with financial burdens, and it is a rare instance when the upbuilding or development of any congregation which includes a building project has not had as its accompaniment a building mortgage. It is a shadow that rides along, a silent companion to the advancement of the church. But it is neither shadowlike or ethereal when the time comes to meet the interest each year or pay off on principal.

When then, as in Farmington, there is released from this necessary but none too welcome companionship one of the community's houses of worship such as the Methodist church, whose architectural beauty has won the approving comment of thousands who have passed by, it is an occasion not merely of congregational, but of community rejoicing. In a celebration of this kind, lines of denomination are obliterated and creed is forgotten. The deliverance from an obligation that has continued through all the years since the church was erected, the casting off of the shadow and coming into the sunshine of financial freedom—this is a brightness that spreads into every corner, just as the sunshine itself covers all the earth, albeit it may at times seem to shine more brightly upon this or that particular spot.

A flame will be lighted to symbolize this one special event, the burning of the mortgage. We all may hope that it is also true that there is being kindled everywhere in America today a flame that will symbolize the ending for all of our country of the burdens and bonds which now bear so heavily on us all.

A California juvenile court has uncovered a young man whose parents christened him with the theasty monicker of Gonzales Gruengennetteezzeana. Discovered at last!—the people who have been naming all these Pullman cars.

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Rev. John J. Larkin, Pastor

Sunday masses at 8:30 a. m.

and 11 a. m.

Daily mass at 8:00.

Baptist Church

Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor

10:10 Prayer Service.

10:30 Sermon subject "Who

Are Farmington's Christians?"

11:45 Bible School with classes

for all.

6:30 Young People's Hour.

7:30 Evangelistic service. The

Pastor will speak on the subject

"God Laughing."

Some and enjoy our song ser-

vice under the leadership of our

choir and orchestra.

Wednesday March 29, Men's

meeting Friday night Prayer

services. Rev. Mr. Clayton of China

speaks.

Clarenceville Methodist Church

O. J. Lyon, Minister

10:00 Morning worship.

11:00 Church school.

6:30 Epworth League.

West Point Park Church

Rev. F. C. Johnson, Minister

10:00 Morning worship.

11:00 Church school.

6:30 Epworth League.

Evangelical Church

Rev. Breitenbach of St. Marks

will preach. Subject: "Christ and

the High Council."

WEST POINT PARK

Mrs. William Zwalhen

Miss Fern Ault gave a St.

Patrick party last Friday even-

ing, about 14 from Farmington

high school were present. Bunco

was played and a St. Patrick's

lunch was served.

The play "Oh Susan" by the

local dramatic players will be Fri-

day evening March 24th at the

community hall.

The Annual election of officers

of the West Point Park Presby-

terian church took place Wednes-

day evening with a pot luck lunch

at 6 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerge were

dinner guests Saturday of the

latter's sister Mrs. Carrie Sohn in

Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Gilbert

had as their Saturday evening

guests Mr. and Mrs. Stanley

Chavez, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Er-

benberger and Mr. and Mrs. Geo.

Kacy all of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. James Eastman

entertained Mr. and Mrs. Frank

Bryan two daughters, Misses Mar-

garet and Mabel, and Mr. and

Mrs. Fred Gerge with "500" Thurs-

day evening.

The Ladies Association of the

West Point Park Presbyterian

church will hold their monthly

meeting at the home of Mrs. John

Mercer on Thursday, March 23th.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerge en-

tertained the Scotch "500" club

Friday evening at their home.

Miss Flossie Fritz, son Thomas

and Harvey Overly of Detroit

were guests Sunday of Mr. and

Mrs. L. B. Gilbert, Senior.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pankov

of Detroit were dinner guests of

their daughter Mrs. Lucian Gil-

bert.

The Ladies Community Club

will give a party and dance

Saturday evening March 25th, in

Community Hall.

Misses Esther and Barbara

Middlewood of Caro were home

over the week end.

Mrs. Marvin Addis and Mrs.

Ethel Middlewood visited Mrs.

Jesse Ziegler last Saturday at

Sessions Hospital in Northville.

Mrs. Ziegler underwent an opera-

tion last Thursday.

Test Fruit Tree Buds

By Placing in Water

As a result of a severe bud

killing caused by the extremely

low temperatures in February

fruit growers in Oakland County

are now testing the varieties by

placing twigs in water to deter-

mine the degree of bud killing.

Where trees have lost their entire

crop it is suggested by E. D.

Bailey, County Agricultural Agent,

that a heavy type of heading back

of limbs should be practiced in

tree trimming. The reason for this

is that peaches bear largely on

year old wood and many Oakland

County orchards can be so pruned

as to be prepared for a better crop

of large size fruit in 1934. Where

live buds are found on the tree, a

great amount of pruning should

be practiced.

Send in your news items.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters To The Editor MUST be signed with the name of the person writing the letter. An assumed name may also be used and the writer's real name will be withheld if the letter is upon request, but no letter without a signature will be published. Please write on one side.

March 22, 1933
Farmington, Mich.

Editor of Farmington Enterprise.

Dear Editor:

I was one of the polite listeners at Monday night's meeting at the Bond School concerning our Township financial condition and welfare expenditure. Mr. Eaton had some interesting figures and his talk was very interesting until he came to the point when he started to hint that the township ought to pay rent in some manner for 12 indigent families that are living in the Stecker Ball Sub-

division. I realized then why we were invited to attend that meeting.

I am one of those residents that saw the pop-up of over-night built houses out of Switzer's corn field, and mind you, Stecker and Ball sold those over night built houses with 70-foot lots for \$3,500 ten per cent down and one per cent a month, and Grand River (frontage \$45.00 per foot and up.) I know there are many of the contract holders who have equities as high as \$2,000. Now, because some of those contract holders are out of work and back on their payments and some of them are on the welfare, it seems unreasonable for Mr. Eaton to expect the Township to pay their rents. By going over in that subdivision, I found 12 vacant houses. I asked if Mr. Eaton succeeds in getting rent (or having it applied on taxes) from the Township Board for 12 families on the welfare list now, then he will be able to fill those 12 vacant houses very quickly.

Mr. Eaton should know there are dollar-down and dollar-a-week subdivisions near by. I suppose those subdivision owners will be allowed their rent (or applied on taxes) and what about the individual landlords who have indigents in their houses? Mr. Eaton in his speech asked us to think "where we're heading" with the present system. We know that we are heading for a stone wall, and it seems to me we are helpless to save ourselves, but if we take Mr. Eaton's advice and establish a system to pay rent for indigent families, sure thing we are heading for a fast express train.

If those 12 indigent families in his subdivision are not original contract holders, it means that the original contract holders had lost their paid-up equities and surrendered their contract, and now Stecker and Ball are re-selling those same houses or renting them to families who are unable to pay rent or pay on their contracts.

I still hope that some good will come out of the Monday night's meeting for the benefit to the taxpayers.

—A Taxpayer.

FAMOUS OPERATIC STARS

TO BE AT MAY FESTIVAL

A galaxy of operatic stars and

renowned instrumentalists, sup-

ported by three important mus-

ical organizations, lead by five

distinguished conductors, will

provide the musical offerings of

the Foreth Annual Ann Arbor

May Festival, consisting of six

concerts to be given May 17, 18,

19 and 20, 1933. Charles A. Sink,

President of the University Mus-

ical Society and of the School of

Music of the University of Mich-

igan, has just announced the

complete list of performers and

the tentative schedule of pro-

grams, as follows:

Louise Bori, Gracie Streetgold,

Leonora Corona, all prima donna

sopranos; Rose Hampton, specta-

cular new contralto star; and

Frederick Jagel, a leading tenor,

all from the Metropolitan Opera

Association; John Charles Thom-

as, renowned baritone, of the late

Chicago Civic Opera Association,

and other great opera companies;

and Chase Baronneau, bass of dis-

tinction of the La Scala, Buenos

Aires, and of Chicago operas. The

instrumentalists will include,

Jascha Heifetz, outstanding violin

virtuoso; Guy Maier and Lee

Fatston, dual pianists, who will

make their "come-back debut" on

this occasion; and Palmer Christ-

ian, distinguished American or-

ganist.

The Chicago Symphony orches-

tra, under Frederick Stock, The

University Choral Union, will

participate in two programs, sing-

ing two outstanding modern

works, "Belshazzar's Feast,"

and at Saturday night's

concert, the world premiere of

Howard Hanson's "Merry Mount."

The Young People's Chorus of

400 voices will sing among other

selections, "Spring Rapture," a

cantata by Harvey Gant. Five

conductors will participate, Mu-

sical Director Earl V. Moore,

Frederick Stock, Eric Delamarier,

Howard Hanson, as Guest Con-

ductor, presiding over the pre-

miere of his own opera, and Jova

Higbee, Young People's conductor.

WEST FARMINGTON

Mrs. Ervin Knapp

40-F4

Word has been received of the

recent death of Mrs. Joseph C.

Chapman, wife of a former Wal-

led Lake Methodist minister. She

died in Durand hospital after a

weeks illness. Funeral was Thurs-

day at Bancroft Mich., with in-

terment at New Lathrop.

The spelling bee winners of the

West Farmington school were de-

termined Friday afternoon. There

being only one fifth grade pupil

he entered the contest with the

sixth grade. Julian Simick win-

ing in that grade. Seventh Vera

Graham eighth, Lily Simick.

Mrs. John Morris who has been

in poor health the past week is

better.

Mrs. Floyd Howard motored to

Ann Arbor Tuesday and will call

on her aunt Mrs. Wilkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gow Jr.

are the parents of a 8 1/2 pound

baby boy, Charles Robert, born

March 10 Mother and baby are