

The Farmington Enterprise

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Hymen Levinson

William Hone

Mr. Printing Dept.



Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, December 28, 1933

Editorials

An Outstanding Job

Whatever may be one's opinion of the CWA, the PWA, or the Recovery program as a whole, there can be no question but that Farmington City officials, and the Township authorities too, have accomplished an outstanding job in obtaining improvements under the Civil Works program. It is almost safe to predict that when the final record is written, Farmington will be shown to have obtained more funds and improvements for its size than any other community in Michigan. It is entirely safe to prophesy that at very least, it will be among the first half dozen in the entire State, possibly in the whole country for in few sections has there been as much CWA activity started with such speed as in Oakland County.

The money value of the improvements obtained in Farmington alone support such a prediction. In this city, with a population of a little over 1,200, projects have been approved that are estimated at over \$50,000, or more than \$40 for every inhabitant. It is doubtful if there is a governing unit large or small anywhere that can surpass or equal that record, unless it be some special instance where one very large project serving a wide territory is involved. In number, variety and worth of approved projects, Farmington has been a conspicuous leader.

It has not been accomplished without work on the part of city officials. Commissioner Hutton particularly, as sewer commissioner, has spent a large portion of his entire time during the past eight or ten weeks, developing with other city officials the projects, preparing the material, conferring with County authorities and getting the work approved, and even helping to get the men equipped to get started when they arrived on the job with neither tools, clothing, nor instructions.

As with everything else, the fellow who is on the job and alert gets what he's after, and so it has been proven in this case. Farmington will soon have as fine a sewer system as any community in the State, many wider streets in place of narrow, dangerous ones, a fine skating rink and pond, and other valuable improvements, for which we may be thankful to the alertness of the officials and the exceptional community interest which induces them to devote time and effort toward betterment of the place in which we live.

In "The Land Of Mears"

Up in Mears, Michigan, which is not far from Hart, in the upper part of the Lower Peninsula, there is published every week "The Smallest Newspaper in the World." It is "The Mears Newz," edited and published by one Swift Lathers, whose publication definitely identifies him as one of the genuine characters in Michigan journalism, whether or not his newspaper may be regarded as "amounting to very much," among the "leaders of the profession."

A copy of The Mears Newz (that's the way he spells it) was brought to the Enterprise office by a former resident of Hart, and he says that few persons who have ever lived around that section and who moved away fail to subscribe to Lathers' newspaper. Its page size is that of a small book, five and a quarter inches wide and seven and a quarter inches deep. Into four pages of this size paper, Lathers each week crams more wit and laughter and shrewdness than you will find in a dozen 60-page metropolitan daily issues. His odd writings expressing an intensely individual viewpoint have been quoted on some topic or other at some time in most of the great dailies and a large portion of the weeklies of the United States. He is a real American homespun philosopher.

Lathers' paper is now in its twentieth year. The little four-page folder carries but one headline. It is on the front page of the little sheet, and in one issue of mid-Autumn it reads, "Coal Bins are ripe in the land of Mears." It has no relation whatsoever to the news below—in fact there is no further mention of the coal bins, and the first sentence tells of the appointment of someone to some public position. Three pages of solid news type follow without headline, division, or even paragraphing. On the back are a half page of ads, not set up as advertisements, but "run in" in small type as news items, and among them are such gems as this: "Will Peck, the big fat plumber, can install a shower bath in your home, a faucet in your sink, and an eaves pipe on your roof." A merchant named Wietzke may have engaged his advertising at a bit higher rate, for we read in large type: "Wietzke sells Sunbeam Heaters, & stands behind the beds he sells."

We read also that the paper was established in 1914, and that Swift Lathers is "Editor and Bottleswasher." On page two there is an account, itself worth the year's subscription-price, of the carrying-on of an old shrew of the town, which is too lengthy to be reprinted, and almost impossible for anyone except libel-proof Lathers to publish. It is said that dozens of folks would like to sue Lathers for libel or have considered it, but that they know it's useless. It is even whispered that he has prominent relatives in the lower part of the State who are much interested in seeing that Swift, who always speaks his mind plainly, remains up at Mears, which is small and far away.

All newspapers could not, of course, be like Lathers' publication, nor even many of them, and that is just as well. In fact, what gives his sheet its absorbing interest is the uniqueness of it. Every newspaper in every town hears and knows things week in and week out which it could print about folks and events if it wished, and many might run Lathers a good race for spiciness and gossip, but they do not, for obvious reasons of community peace-of-mind and good will among men, women and children. Yet up in the tiny

four-corners of Mears, with a few score inhabitants, Lathers can print what he pleases (or rather, may have it printed, for it appears he has neither staff, office, nor plant), and he sends a refreshing breeze around the nearby country, and to readers in various parts of the United States. His paper is not listed in directories of the trade, not even in the Michigan Manual, official publication of the State of Michigan, which is supposed to include all papers. He is not the foremost editor in Michigan, but he is the freest of them all. One visualizes him like the picture postcards they used to sell down South, showing an old, smiling hobo, and underneath his patched figure, these words, "I don't know nothin', I don't owe nothin', I ain't got nothin', I don't want nothin', so I'm perfectly happy." The difference is that Swift Lathers, whatever he looks like, knows a whole lot. And he never says he "knows but won't tell." HE tells!

We salute you, Mr. Lathers. May you have many happy New Years in what you've dubbed "The Land of Mears," and may we be among your readers always.

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Rev. John J. Larkins, Pastor

Sunday masses at 8:30 a. m. 10:30 a. m. and 12:00 noon. Benediction after 10:30 mass. Daily masses at 7:30 a. m. and 8:00 a. m.

Evangelical Church

Rev. W. Breitenbach, Minister

Sunday, December 31, Service at 10:15 a. m. Subject: "Life Out Of God's Life."

8:00 p. m. Sylvester Service. Subject: "The Peace of God." Anthem by the Choir. "Hitherto the Lord Has Helped Us."

Old Year's Wake until midnight in Church Hall.

Monday, January 1, New Year's Service at 10:15 a. m. German and English services. Subject: "My Time."

Anthem by the Choir. "Oh Lord, Our God Grant Us A Year of Praise."

Baptist Church

Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor

10:30 New Year's Message.

11:45 Bible School.

6:30 Young People's Hour.

7:30 Evangelistic Service. The first part of the program will be a song service at which time there will be several special musical numbers.

The Pastor will preach on "Will Jesus Come in 1934?"

After the sermon there will be a play given by the young people of the Church. The name of the play is "The Challenge of the Week."

After the play there will be a Watch Night service and Communion.

We invite the public to observe this Watch Night service with us.

Come at 7:30 and plan to stay through to the midnight hour.

Methodist Church

Rev. F. A. Lendrum, D. D., Min.

Worship 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

"Crisis or Challenge" will be the theme for the morning sermon by Dr. Lendrum. There will be the anthem and offering by the choir.

In the evening there will be special music, and the sermon will be on "Balancing the Budget."

Church School at 12 noon. Miss Emily Butterfield, superintendent.

Epworth League consecration service at 6:30 p. m. Olive Grimwade, leader.

Next week, special week of prayer services on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

WEST FARMINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. George Heliker, Sr. entertained their children and grandchildren at Christmas dinner and Christmas tree Monday. All were present except Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hunt and children, their son Roger is very ill.

Edwin Murray of Chicago came to spend Christmas with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Heliker.

Mrs. Edward Grimmer will entertain the Willing Workers of West Farmington Cemetery in January. A pot luck dinner will be served at noon.

Mrs. Elva Tolman who has been very sick is recovering at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Starr Graham.

William Knapp is spending a few days of his vacation with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Giegler and family.

The West Farmington School Christmas program was well attended on Friday evening. School is closed until January 2.

General from here took part in the Christmas program held at the Baptist Church at Walled Lake Saturday evening.

Alice German is home for the holidays.

Agnes Robison spent the week end with relatives here.

Mrs. Edith Graham entertained Mr. and Mrs. Marley Bachelor and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Giegler and family, Mr. and Mrs. Starr Graham and family and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Knapp and son William.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heliker and family, Mrs. Geraldine Kline, and Mrs. Elva Tolman at Christmas dinner at her home on 18-Mile road Monday.

WEST POINT PARK

Mrs. William Zwahlen

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Owen, Kenneth and Bill left here last Friday to spend their Christmas with the former's sister, Mrs. Maude Owen in Jamestown, Penn.

Mrs. Austin Ault had for her Sunday dinner guests "in honor of her birthday" Mrs. Freda Ault of Farmington, and Miss Fern and June Ault.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sherman and family were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Emory Barger in Detroit.

Miss Mary Fanzina of Farmington was the guest Sunday night of Miss Vivian Adieh.

Miss Marie Berchem of Detroit was the guest Sunday of her father, Alfred Berchem.

Miss Anna Thayer of Muskegon Heights is home with her sister, Mrs. James Eastman for her holiday vacation.

Misses Esther and Barbara Middlewood are home from Caro for their vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gould were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John DeBore in Detroit.

Alfred Berchem and daughter Miss Marie were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Stoneburner in Northville.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pankow of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Gilbert Sr. were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Marquette Shoman of Detroit were guests Sunday of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Gilbert, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sharrow were the Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orr Passage in Plymouth.

Mrs. Margaret Martin was the Christmas dinner guest of her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Borland in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weber and children of Detroit were dinner guests Wednesday of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sharrow.

Mr. and Mrs. James Eastman and Miss Anna Thayer were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Thayer in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Addis and Misses Vivian, Shirley and Jean were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Freer in Detroit.

Mrs. Ethel Middlewood, Misses Esther and Barbara, George and Homer were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Sheldrick in Detroit.

Miss Mary Smith of Detroit spent Sunday and Monday as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank Robins.

Miss Olive Grimwade of Farmington was the week end guest of Miss Shirley Zwahlen.

Frazer Miles, who has been visiting John Harlan, returned Thursday to Angola, Indiana.

Charles Gilbert and son Charles Jr. of Brightmore were guests Monday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Gilbert.

The Ladies Community Club will meet Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Albert Reichman. All members are asked to be present as it will be election of officers, January 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Heishman called Monday afternoon on the latter's sister, Mrs. Louise Hawkins in Detroit.

Miss Dorothy Gerge accompanied by Wm. Maloy of Detroit was the Sunday guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerge.

TELEPHONE NUMBER PROVES CLUE TO MAN'S IDENTITY

A telephone number often proves a valuable clue, and has led to the solving of many police mysteries.

Not long ago, in Philadelphia, it led to the identification of James Sean, of New York City. He had been found wandering about the city, unable to tell who he was or where he came from. Finally at the police station where he had been taken, a detective asked him if he knew any telephone numbers.

The amnesia victim replied, as surprised as they, "Luzemburg 8-212."

Inquiry at the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia brought the prompt report that there is a New York City telephone central office by the name of Luzemburg. The number was called and the man's identity quickly established.

GREAT LAKES THEATRE

14830 Grand River, Detroit (Only 15 minutes from Farmington)

2250 Seats

FRI. & SAT. DEC. 29-30 Sun., Mon., Dec. 31-Jan. 1

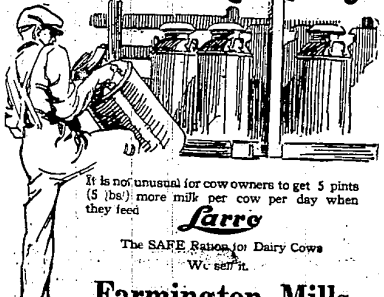
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