

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

Clipped From Other Publications

### Suicide Over Money

(By Theodore H. Millington in Birmingham Eccentric)

He had a store on the main street, was a mason, a Rotarian, a church member, a bank stockholder, a bank depositor, owned his own home free and clear, had a few thousand loaned out on mortgages, etc., and a good many accounts in his books due from people he had known all his life. These accounts had accumulated during the panic. He had been one of those solid middle-class citizens whose aggregate number makes the real back-bone of America.

Then came the bank panic and his bank went with the rest. His deposit was tied up against his double stock liability, which was more than he could pay except by collecting on his back accounts and his loans. But his debtors could not pay. When he tried to press them, many of them said something about wheat-dollars then and wheat-dollars now—something he could not understand—but he got no money.

The bank closing meant an assessment on him for his stock liability and he lost his business. The newspapers were full of stuff about gold dollars, silver dollars, paper dollars, printing press money, revaluation of the dollar, 50 cent dollar, etc., none of which he understood very well, but it looked to him like a new scheme for avoiding just payments of debts.

The one thing he was sure of was that he had been a good citizen. He had always supported every good public movement, always paid his debts, had been frugal, and the trouble he now was in was none of his making. It hurt him to realize that the people whom he had been glad to befriend by loans and credit in the past now said he was a hard and inhuman capitalist. If he could only collect a fourth of what was owing to him he could pay the bank and save his house, which was now going to be put up for sale.

He wanted to pay the bank in full regardless of the sacrifices it might cost him. That, he felt, was a stockholder's plain and simple duty to the depositors. But why honest people publicly and without shame, could favor honest debts with 50 cent dollars, paper currency or printing press money, he could not well understand. He was sure that either himself or everybody else had gone stark crazy.

A knock on the door startled him. When he opened it, there stood his boyhood friend shouting a lusty greeting. This friend now proceeded to relate how, after the war, he had gone West and eventually drifted into gold mining. He had saved up his gold for several years till he could get enough to come back and build a house next door to his old friend. He had been slow and hard work, but lately he had heard that gold was much higher in price, so he had decided to come out. He had sold his gold at the Federal Reserve in Denver for nearly twice what he had expected, and had a Chicago draft for \$10,000 in his pocket.

So he said, "I want to buy that lot of your next door. I believe your price was \$2,000. I will pay you that and begin to build right away."

The old man realized that this gold miner knew nothing of the depression, but his native honesty compelled him to inform him about it and that, owing to present con-

ditions, he would be glad to sell the lot for \$500.

To this proposition the miner turned with sorrow and said:

"What do you think I am? When I got twice as much money for the gold as it was worth just because some professor in Washington has gone nutty, is that any reason I should cheat an old friend? Your lot is just as good to me now as it was 15 years ago and you have paid taxes on it all the time besides. I would have paid you \$2,000.00 then, if I had the money, and now that I have it I will pay the same price."

At this, the old man's face took on a strange expression. His eyes had a bewildered look and his voice trembled as he replied:

"You say you will pay me \$2,000 for the lot when I offer it for \$500? Other people say if they ever pay me what they owe, they will pay with 50 cent dollars. You must be crazy, too. My wife is dead, my children are gone, grown and married. I have lost everything. I have gone crazy and now my good old boyhood friend has gone crazy too. I have nothing more to live for."

Fumbling under the pile of papers and magazines on the table filled with articles on money and banking which he had been reading and trying to understand, he produced an automatic revolver and before the miner could stop him, he put a bullet through his own head and fell dead.

So died the respectable middle-class man, the back bone of our civilization, the burden bearer of taxes, of debt reductions, of church support, of charity donations, a savings depositor and a government bond buyer, solid, dependable, reliable and honorable. Was he to blame for his troubles? To him, two and two no longer seemed to make four.

This type of citizen includes every kind of professional man, salaried official, farmer and wage earner who is frugal, conservative and living within his means. So, in our desire to lighten the debt load for the debtor, let us not forget the unorganized, stolid, helpful, kindly middle-class lest we destroy that element of our civilization which saved up the money which the debtors borrowed, spent and now no longer can pay in full.

### The Home Town Merchant

(Ionia County News)

I think that in all these movements toward national recovery we should not overlook the local merchant, whose pathway has been beset with many ills during these depression years. Sometimes I hear people speak thoughtlessly about those who serve us along Main Street. We should remember that when we speak disparagingly about the local merchant we are hurting the community in which we live. One can go with the average merchant into the innermost recesses of his business and there will be wondered how he has managed to weather the storms that have raged above his head in recent years. But through it all he has remained patient and faithful—he has refused to whimper or admit defeat. Each morning of the workaday week finds him at his place of business still carrying on. We have just witnessed "National Recovery Week,"—we should make them all recovery weeks, do our little part from day to day to aid in the great work of restoring this nation to an even keel. The home town merchant is doing his part, but he needs your support and cooperation. Buy to your limit during these fall months—always buy at home—that is the pathway toward prosperity.

## WALLED LAKE

Edited by Mrs. L. M. Philp. Phone Walled Lake 57.

The annual Father and Son Banquet of the Walled Lake gymnasium Wednesday evening, February 21, at seven o'clock.

The speaker of the evening was Edward E. Gallup of Lansing. Mr. Gallup has been in charge of Smith-Hughes schools in Michigan since the work began in 1917. His inspirational addresses have enthused audiences in most of the schools of Michigan. Under his interested supervision the Future Farmers of America has grown to be a fine group of farm boys that promises to go far toward bringing agriculture into a more favorable position among American occupations. There is no man in the State with a greater interest in the youth of today or with a broader knowledge of the problems confronting them.

The program was:

Invocation Rev. Wik  
Introduction of Toastmaster  
Toast to Son Don Post  
Toast to Father E. V. Mercer  
Music George Richardson  
George Goodrich  
E. C. Hansen  
Don Patterson  
E. E. Gallup  
Ed Sharp

### School News

The Junior Class of Walled Lake High School wish to announce the forthcoming play, entitled "Here Comes Patricia." The play will be presented March, the ninth, and the students and sponsors all appreciate the patronage of everyone.

The Senior Class has chosen a play to be presented at a date which will be announced later. The Walled Lake Basketball team have won three straight defeats in the Reservoir gymnasium. Walled Lake will meet St. Mary's Friday night, February 23 at Walled Lake. This will be Walled Lake's last game which they will enter the District tournament at Milford.

The seventh grade, under the direction of Miss Bills, had three guinea pigs for experimental purposes. Their names were Tom, Dick and Harry. Tom was fed normal food; Dick was fed normal food and tobacco; and Harry was fed normal food and alcohol. The results after a few weeks on this diet were that Harry was the smallest, Dick was nearly as small and Tom was the largest. The seventh grade drew names to see who would keep the pigs. Wilbur Bachelor kept Tom, Wesley Bachelor kept Dick and Marian Seck kept Harry. Pupil interest was high throughout the project, which was carried out in connection with the W. C. T. U. program.

Mrs. E. J. Lindsay entertained at a bridge luncheon and party on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer McQuern, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Buffmyer, Fred Woodman, L. M. Philp and E. V. Mercer attended the Lincoln banquet.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Orla Benjamin a 5 pound baby on February 8. It was necessary to put the baby in an incubator at a Pontiac Hospital.

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Martindale, Professor and Mrs. Dow and Dr. Mank, President Eminent of Hillsdale College called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Carnes on Sunday morning.

Jacqueline Goodrich continues to be ill at her home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Goodrich.

Miss Lucille Moss spent the week end with friends in Plymouth.

M. L. Bradley and Miss Ruth Bradley were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Phillips and Miss Eleanor Phillips of Milford. The dinner was a birthday dinner honoring Miss Bradley and Miss Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hess and son Jack Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Francis attended a birthday surprise party on Monday evening honoring Mrs. Charles Gray at her home in Detroit.

### Baptist Church News

A group of young people from Ypsilanti presented a 3-act drama concerning Peter at the Church on Sunday evening. It was well attended and enjoyed.

The Junior Choir was entertained at a Valentine party on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Della Mathews, Mrs. Clara Green and Mrs. Wik were in charge of a Valentine party on Wednesday afternoon for the Primary Intermediate Class of the Sunday School.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Beagle celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a Valentine evening. Mrs. Beagle is sixty-eight years old and Mr. Beagle is 74.

The couple were married Feb-

ruary 1, 1884 at Milford by Rev. Eastman, then of the Methodist Church there.

The first twenty years of their married life was spent near Brighton and Pleasant Valley where all of their eight children were born. In 1911 they moved to Milford where they lived for 5 years. They came to Walled Lake in 1919 and have resided here ever since.

With the exception of a baby who died at the age of seven months, the children are all living. They are: Floyd of Milford, Will of Pontiac, Charles of Walled Lake, Albert of Redford, Harold of Oakley Park and Mrs. Lena Lare of Walled Lake.

The children and grandchildren all gathered at their home on Wednesday evening to help the celebration. There were also a few neighbors among the guests. A purse was presented to the couple. Cards and a lunch made up the evenings entertainment.

Bobby and Vera Philp entertained at a Valentine party on Saturday evening. Bunches of flowers were played as a source of amusement for the evening at which Shirley Post and Kenneth Coe won first prizes. A Valentine lunch was served to ten guests present.

Walled Lake people were rudely awakened about 5:30 a. m. Thursday by the fire siren. It proved to be the machine shop and cider mill owned by Rex Angell on the East Shore. The buildings were completely destroyed and none of the contents saved. The Walled Lake and Novi fire departments arrived in time to save the saw mill and the house.

Ira Carnes is nursing back injuries as a result of a too rapid rush to the fire on Thursday morning. His car skidded on the icy turn near the Jeanette home and left the road. It hit a tree and stump and badly damaged the car.

Mrs. Carnes is also ill at her home.

The Valentine party given by the Olive Club for their husbands and friends was well attended. The party was held at the home of Mrs. Ira Carnes. A bounteous pot luck supper was enjoyed after which bridge was played and prizes were awarded.

### Methodist Church News

Fifty children and young people attended the Valentine party given at the Church on Thursday evening last week.

Mrs. Bruce Dickie entertained the Ladies' Aid members and their friends on Thursday.

Mrs. Paul McKibbin and Mrs. Harold Tripp entertained the ladies of the choir and church at a shower honoring Mrs. Letha Phelps and her baby daughter on Thursday evening.

Lee Philp, Lee Carless, Rev. E. L. Carless, E. V. Mercer, Miss Ruth Bradley, Mrs. Jesse Powers, Mrs. Besse Herron and Miss Dorothy Russell attended the School of Religion at the First M. E. Church on Monday.

### Extension Course News

The Walled Lake group met at the home of Mrs. E. V. Mercer on Tuesday. Mrs. Henry Moss gave the lesson.

Mrs. Mary Buffmyer attended a special meeting of the ladies of the Home Economic Extension Group of the Holy District at the Holy High School on Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Mary Buffmyer, county chairman of the extension work gives a favorable report as to the number of women and girls that are interested in the work. 750 women and 450 girls in our county are enrolled in the 47 women's groups and the 43 4-H girls groups.

The Pleasant Lake Extension group will present their play entitled "Sparkling Lucia" at the Eastern Junior High School on Friday and Saturday evenings, February 23 and 24. Mrs. Boucher's dancing class will also entertain at that evening. The play is under the direction of Mrs. Mable Welch and the cast, consists of Miss Maudie Richardson, Mrs. Laura Rosch, Miss Dorothy Russell and Mrs. Frank Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilf Ewason of Grand Blanc were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Griswold.

Little Karl Venstrom is quite ill with a cold.

Miss Ruth Bills, Home Economic teacher, who has been ill with pneumonia, is improving and expects to be back on the job in about a week.

Harold King has returned from his Boston trip. Douglas Wilfars of Ypsilanti spent the week end at home.

Mrs. Thomas Parker of Clarkston is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fluke.

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