

# The Farmington Enterprise

Established 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday at each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second-class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Hyman Levinsky, Publisher  
William Howe, Editor  
Mrs. Printing Dept.

Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, July 12, 1934.

## Editorials

"Penny Wise"

Amending the Constitution of Michigan by circulating petitions is already one of the fads in government in this State. Change by initiative petition was heralded many years ago as a democratic reform much needed to provide the people a method of overcoming opposition of organized political groups to progressive measures in government. It has worked out better than most governmental reforms, but when overworked, can become just as much of a farce as any other political device.

It is easy to propose a constitutional amendment, and start the circulation of petitions to put it over, especially when the idea has a popular appeal, however superficial it may be. The limitation of taxation is, of course, the favorite of them all, and one of the latest of the notions is a constitutional amendment to limit the gasoline tax to two cents a gallon. The proponents of this amendment, however, their proposal has not met with approval everywhere, as they might have by this time undoubtedly experienced some surprise, in that have expected.

Rather, the proposed gas tax limitation has aroused well-grounded opposition in many quarters and for a variety of reasons. Among the sound and intelligent expressions of disapproval is an editorial from the Hastings Banner:

"We believe the movement to limit by constitutional amendment the Michigan gasoline tax to two cents per gallon is entirely unsound. The claim that excessive gasoline taxes are keeping 300,000 motor cars off the road is a gross distortion of fact.

"Actually the three cent tax here in Michigan is below the average. The State is one of twelve which levy this rate and only four charge less. Five States have four cent taxes, ten charge five cents, five others six cents, one State six and one-half cents and two others seven cents. So Michigan motorists enjoy one of the most reasonable gas tax rates in the entire country.

"Although some States permit a diversion of gas tax money for purposes other than highway construction and maintenance, such is not the case here. Motor taxes are devoted to roads exclusively. The gas tax in Michigan is entirely just. Funds derived from it are now even finding their way to the remotest of township roads thereby providing even the remotest of farms with a hard surfaced connection to a main highway. This type of construction would have to be abandoned if the gas tax were lowered and yet the annual saving to farmers in fuel bills, wear and tear on equipment would at least equal the few dollars saved by topping off one cent from the gas tax—very probably would save them considerably more.

"It is pure buncombe to contend that a difference of one-cent in the gas tax is keeping thousands of motorists from the road. Gasoline prices fluctuate more than this without any noticeable effect on the buying. A motorist who cannot afford to pay 20c per gallon for gasoline cannot be expected to become a heavy user of the highways if the price through a reduction in the gas tax is reduced to 19c.

"A reduction of one cent in the gas tax will mean an annual saving of from \$4.00 to \$8.00 a year for the average motorist. But the price of this saving will be cutting highway revenues to such a low figure that roads cannot be adequately maintained. Poor roads mean lower mileage per gallon, less speed and greater wear and tear on the car. By cutting the gas one cent, we would be spending dollars to save cents.

"It is perfectly correct to place some sort of constitutional limit on the gas tax for purposes of safe-guarding the interests of the motorist, but that limit in our opinion should be four cents or even five cents, not two cents."

### LET THE USERS PAY

South Kent County News  
The available funds for improvement of state and county roads would be so limited that worse road conditions would be the case, or else the added burden must be passed on to the tax payer in some other form. It is rare that a tax is paid altogether by the beneficiaries of that tax, yet such has been the situation with gasoline tax where the users of the road have paid for their maintenance in proportion to the amount of use derived therefrom.

Let the users continue to pay until such time as conditions warrant a change and then it becomes a legislative question.

### EVERYBODY PAYS

Dr. William Bennett Munro  
The untaxed American is a myth. No one who occupies property, owns a car, smokes tobacco, drinks beer, goes to the theatre, eats three meals a day, rides on a street car or goes through the other motions of daily life gets by untaxed. There are people who think themselves non-taxpayers when at least ten percent of their earnings go for taxes. They are victims of the great American delusion. Of itself a government earns no money. Every dollar that it gets for its support must come from someone who does the earning, all production, which means that both producer and consumer share in paying the bills.

Perhaps they refer to it as a black town because so few of its citizens apply for government relief.

## WALLED LAKE

Mrs. Mae Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Watson, on July 4th, entertained twenty-seven friends from Detroit at a hamburger and wafelers roast.

The ladies auxiliary of Kilwinning Masonic Lodge of Detroit, and their husbands, held a picnic at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. George N. Butler, Sunday.

The members of Wayne Chapter O. E. S., Detroit, held a basket picnic last Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Klix, East Lake Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Watson, on July 8th, entertained Mr. and Mrs. Chase Fisher and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sullivan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shields and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stewart, and Miss Marjorie Stewart, all of Detroit.

Mrs. Sarah McGreger entertained Mr. and Mrs. Tuck of Detroit, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Seville, of 130 Welfare Blvd., are entertaining their father and mother from Detroit.

Mrs. J. C. Mattimore, of Wayne, Ohio, is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mesnard.

The Sarah McGreger bridge club met Tuesday, July 10 at the home of Mr. George W. Butler, 903 E. Lake Drive.

Mrs. Lawrence Ramsey entertained her bridge club Wednesday, July 11, at her summer home.

Mrs. John Rolston, of Detroit, spent Sunday at the home of Arthur Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Eno have moved into part of May Tuttle's home.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Smith of South Lyon spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. George Bentley.

Miss Jessie Hutton of Flint is visiting at the home of Mrs. Minnie Hutton.

Mrs. Myrtle Tinkham, of Wayne, is spending the week at the Post home.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Keeney, of Howell, were weekend guests with Rev. and Mrs. Carless.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Luthis were Sunday guests of Mrs. Leslie Hopkins, at Rochester.

Bobby Philp is spending the week with Gerald Hazen on Maple Road.

Mrs. L. M. Philp entertained the Wednesday Club at a pot luck dinner this week.

Dickie Taylor is recovering from blood poisoning in his foot.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Bentley entertained thirty relatives and friends at a picnic dinner on the Fourth.

Mrs. Charles Hutton is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hyde, at Nashville, for two weeks.

Mrs. Leslie and daughter, Leona, and son, Harold of Jackson, visited at the Luthis' home Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moss and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Riley are spending the week near Hale.

Miss Grace German is spending the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wallace in Ypsilanti.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ruggles, of Kingston, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark, of New Hudson, were Tuesday evening callers on Rev. and Mrs. Carless.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dewey and son, David, visited Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dewey at Ingham City on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Young and daughter, Beulah, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clark at Royal Oak.

The Misses Louise and Marian Gardner have gone east for the summer to visit relatives.

Little Shirley Parks, who has been confined to her bed, is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Balmer and daughter, Ruth, of Groesbe Pointe, spent Sunday with Mrs. Edith Eilenwood and family.

Mrs. Katherine Ormsby and daughter, Betsey, left Monday morning for a two weeks stay at Chain O' Lakes.

Guests at Rev. Carless home the Fourth of July were Mr. and Mrs. William Barthel and daughter, Margaret, of Royal Oak, and Miss Georgiana Stewart, and Aubrey Carless, of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Youngs and son, Dayton, and Mrs. Robert Youngs, of Royal Oak, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harro and family.

Miss Edna Luthis entertained Mr. and Mrs. A. Van Vleet at tea Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Post and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vreeland left Friday for Chicago to spend a week at the Century of Progress.

Miss Jean Wallace and sister, Marian, who has been visiting her here for three weeks, left Sunday for their home in Lapeer.

Mrs. Stanley Bradish, of Adrian, formerly Minnie McKnight of this place, spent last Thursday and Friday with her brother, Bruce McKnight, and called on several of her old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Mercer and family were called to Pomroy, Ohio last Friday by the death of Mrs. Mercer's mother, Mrs. Morgan. Mr. Mercer and Billy returned home Monday. Mrs. Mercer and sons, Roy and Glen, remaining for a few days.

A very exciting ball game was played Sunday evening at school dismissed between Drayton Plains and Walled Lake, who were at first place in the league but Walled Lake won with a score of 11-5. Battery for Walled Lake were Halvey and Hursh.

During the storm last Friday afternoon, a boat was capsized on the lake and the four occupants, all men, had a narrow escape from drowning, but due to the timely aid of Harry Vreeland, who heard their cry for help, all were rescued.

Mrs. Paul McKibbin entertained the M. E. Choir at its monthly supper and business meeting Tuesday evening at her home at Union Lake. The choir are rehearsing on its number for the contest held at Lansing July 27.

Baptist Church  
The vacation school closed Friday, July 6th and on Sunday evening each class portrayed an example of the work in school, and Mrs. Everett McKee taught a class as was done during the school session. The intermediate class presented a play "Joseph" and the juniors dramatized a story which was read by Mae Johns and all classes gave a medley of songs they had learned under the direction of Mrs. V. O. Wile.

All children had made gifts for their parents and other handwork was exhibited.

### Operator Found Lots of Excitement During One Year in Small Ohio Town



MRS. MYRTLE AREHART.

Night telephone operator at Bowersville, O., during the course of one year she was held captive by bank bandits, arrested the alarm of a serious fire, and averted a robbery.

Bowersville, O., is a small community where life usually proceeds in a placid manner. But to Mrs. Myrtle Arehart, night-telephone operator at the Bowersville exchange, there came during 1933 no fewer than three exciting events in which she played an active part.

Robbers Flea as Bell's Ring  
Shortly after midnight this morning she was looking out of the window of the central office, at the time

and floor of the Bowersville bank building, when she saw three robbers breaking into the W. W. Warnock general store across the street. Returning to the switchboard, she rang the Warnock residence telephone, which is connected with the store telephone. The alarm caused the ringing of both telephones frightened the robbers, who fled with only a small amount of cash.

Her Alarm Saves the Town  
Only five weeks previous to this, fire had threatened the business district of the town, and again it was Mrs. Arehart who sounded the alarm and notified residents of the town.

The fire destroyed one business building, but her prompt action enabled citizens to rescue an eighty-year old woman from her burning home adjoining the building which was destroyed.

Bandits Cut Wires, Hold Her  
Probably the most exciting experience which Mrs. Arehart had during the year occurred on the night of March 21, when robbers wrecked the Bowersville Bank and carried off with \$2,237 in cash and \$5,000 in bonds. On this occasion, Mrs. Arehart, on duty on the second floor of the bank building, was held prisoner. The bandits cut the telephone wires, and she was unable to summon help. To add still further to her harrowing experience, she was almost overcome by tear gas, released when the yeggs blasted the safe.

## PENNIMAN THEATRE NORTHVILLE

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Barbara Stanwyck

"GAMBLING LADY"

A great star meets the challenge of a great story and holds you spellbound in the grip of her gasms  
NEWS COMEDY  
Evening Admission: Children 10c, Adults 25c

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Ruth Chatterton—Adolphe Menjou and Claire Dodd

"JOURNAL OF A CRIME"

Ruth Chatterton rises to new heights of achievement in the story of a wife who sold her soul to hold her man  
NEWS COMEDY  
Children 10c—Adults 20c

Coming

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Bebe Daniels in "Registered Nurse"

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Buffalo Gluten  
25% Protein  
Dairy Feed  
\$27.00 per ton  
or  
\$1.45 per cwt.  
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