

## Campaigners Hustle With Poll Day Near

Farmington Township primary election campaigns are in full swing, with 10 days to go until poll time, and candidates keeping their names before the public by distributing printed cards from bars to banks and hotels to mansions.

The Republicans are doing virtually all of the campaigning because the only competition is from the G. O. P. ticket. The Democrats have little to worry about until the general election.

Highlighting these contests is the Loretta E. Cox-Clayton vs. Goers dispute over the nomination for treasurer. In the general election the winner will oppose Ethel C. Smith, Democrat.

**Old Friends**

Mrs. Cox, present treasurer, and Mrs. Goers, Highway Commissioner, for many years have appeared together on Republican tickets and helped each other and the rest of the candidates in campaigns.

Attracting almost as much attention will be the Republican race for the Justice of Peace nomination between Ward Eagle, who is running for re-election, and William LaForge. Floyd D. Hallock is running for this office on the Democrat ticket.

In the only other primary contest Harry N. McCracken, the present officer, and Hunter W. Earle are asking Republicans to nominate them for clerk. Charles A. Bardwell, Democrat, will oppose the winner in the general election.

### A PRIMARY PROBLEM

Someone asked the question at a recent meeting of the Township Board regarding the new secret ballot which apparently no one can answer. The question was whether the blank ballot box should be opened. When Harry N. McCracken, Township Clerk, was in Pontiac this week he asked the County Clerk. The Clerk was stumped and telephoned the County Clerk. The officials were stumped. He telephoned the Prosecuting Attorney. The attorney was stumped. Finally the Clerk said he would write the Secretary of State and ask him as he received an answer he would call a meeting of all the chairmen of the election boards in Oakland County and instruct them what to do.

Other candidates without opposition in the primary are Harvey W. Perry, Supervisor; Albert Koss, Board of Review; and Leo Vedyke, Constable, all Democrats. Republican are Arthur P. Cox, Supervisor; Don B. Button, Board of Review; and Louis A. Hergich, Constable.

Voters are asked on the tickets to write in the names of three other persons for Constable and to write in names for three Township Commissioners and one Highway Commissioner.

### Secret Ballot in Effect

An additional feature of the election will be the new secret ballot, designed to prevent the election board from learning a voter's party affiliation. This plan calls for another judge to serve on the customary five-man election board to explain the new system to the voters.

The plan provides that each voter receives the ballot for each party, but fills in only one, dropping the blank ballot into another box. Each voter under the old plan asked for the ballot of a particular party.

Members of the election boards are:

**President**—Mrs. Susie Seeley, Mrs. Lettie McIntyre, E. V. Blanchard, Jay Button, William Morris and Frank Steele.

**Recorder**—W. H. Campbell, Louise Brown, Mitchell Durham, Charles Helise, Mrs. Frances Billings and Walter Heiderle.

Polls will be open from 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. E. S. T.

## No Visitors Allowed Armes' Doctor Says

Paul Armes, 3321 Grand River, who returned to his home Sunday, February 13, is given a good chance to recover if he follows the doctor's orders and remains in bed four to six weeks and receives no visitors. The doctor said Mr. Armes was suffering with a serious heart ailment. Mr. Armes has been sick since late December and was taken to the Pontiac General Hospital early this month. He remained a week under the care of a chest and heart specialist and was brought home in an ambulance.

## Quits Four Hours Earlier With Mail Route Revision

Beginning March 1 one of the longest mail routes in the state will be cut in half. The rural route of Mrs. Ethel Middlewood will be cut from more than 1100 boxes to about 450 under the new revision of the rural routes. The reduction is possible because of the addition of a third route.

The new plan, which will be put into effect Tuesday, is expected to give quicker service on the former routes and at the same time give rural mail service to

persons who were not served before and allow all rural residents to receive their mail several hours sooner.

The new schedule sends the carriers from the postoffice at 9:30 in the morning and brings them in at 2:30 in the afternoon. Mrs. Middlewood, on her old route, returns about 6 o'clock.

Route number one will cover the rural area north of Grand River. Route number two under the new setup will be east of Tuck Road and south of Grand River, north on Farmington Road to 12 Mile Road and back to the postoffice by way of Dike Road. The new number three route will include everything west of Tuck Road, except Randall avenue, to the Novi-Walled Lake-Northville road and as far north as 12 Mile Road.

Charles Habermehl, a substitute carrier, will be temporary carrier of Route 2 when the change takes effect. Almeron Bidwell will carry route 1 and Mrs. Middlewood Route 3.

About 17 miles have been added to the mail service although each route is shorter. All residents on the new routes will be notified of a change of address before the change of effect, Postmaster Lee said.

## SENIORS TO GIVE ANNUAL PLAY MARCH 10 AND 11

The senior class of Farmington High School will present its annual play in the Town Hall on Thursday and Friday evenings, March 10 and 11.

The play, "Growing Pains," a sparkling, fast comedy written by Aurania Rouverol, is a highly amusing story of high school students.

None of us escapes the joys and sorrows of adolescence and few of us fall to respond sympathetically when these experiences are presented to us in books or on the stage. It is certain that anyone witnessing this comedy will become more tolerant toward children around them.

"Growing Pains" tells the dilemma of the McIntyres, who see their boy and girl tossed in the sea of adolescence and can help little further than to give directions for the turbulent course from a distance, advice which egocentric youth always rejects.

The two kids go through their time in company with their friends. Many things happen to all of them, but the end is bright and promising.

Two groups of students will play the McIntyre family in the main part of the amusing plot. James Gibbs and Belle Edison will play Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre one evening with Sharrille Belger as their daughter and Roger Walker as their son. In the second play will be Prudence Darline, a neighbor girl who is quite a flirt.

Irving Light and Bertha Smith will play Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre the second night. Ruth LeVeque will be the daughter and Roger Walker the son with Barbara Ryall playing Prudence.

The rest of the cast will be the same both evenings. It includes George McNeill, Bill Davidson, Louis Bell, June Whipple, Helen Schweid, Don Gould, Betty Geary, Dorothy Fairclark and others.

Mr. Charles Baker, industrial arts instructor, is directing the building of the set which promises to be unusually fine. Several senior boys are helping Mr. Baker with the set. Among those helping are Jim Collins, Bill Schultkins, Dick Barrows, Ray Mahoney, Frank Koss, Ed West, Gordon W. Rossdale, Thaddeus Brykalski and Cliff Tilghman.

## SPORTS, MUSIC, FISH AND BRIDGE ARE ON PROGRAM

The Exchange Club postponed its regular meeting Wednesday to hear Don Rockwell, author writer from Detroit. Free Press, talk on his profession at the Fish and Chip dinner Friday night at 6:30 at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Redford, Birmingham and Northville clubs were invited to the dinner, and all three clubs will be represented. About 100 men are expected to attend.

Following the dinner the men will go to the Town Hall for a bridge tournament. A German band, the "Hungry Five," from the High School will play during the dinner.

## Expects Early Decision Of Tax Case

An early disposition of the suit by which City of Farmington seeks to recover payments made by its property-owners in connection with the asserted illegal Covert road tax assessments amounting to \$11,000 between 1926 and 1931, is indicated in the handling of proceedings in early stages.

The first step was completed Monday when the City was granted an injunction against the further collection of the tax item to controversy, until after the case is finally settled.

Judge Frank L. Doty, before whom the case will be heard in Circuit Court at Pontiac, assured the lawyers that he will be glad to have the case go forward with greater possible speed, and it is anticipated that a decision may be made before summer. All parties to the case indicated that they welcome an early disposal.

The injunction issued Monday prevents further collection by the city treasurer of Covert-road taxes for 1926 through 1931 upon any property in the city for the roads involved in the dispute. This item would probably be small, if any payments were made, but the city's lawyers were interested chiefly in establishing this step as one of the necessary elements in their course of action.

One Decision Delayed

Decision was deferred upon another restraint requested by the City, that the Auditor-General be prevented from selling at the May tax sale any of the taxes involved in the controversy. Judge Doty permitted this question to go over until the Auditor-General files his petition for sale, when such questions as the Farmington issue will be decided.

Although a motion to dismiss the City's suit was filed by former Judge Glenn C. Gillespie, representing Farmington Township, it was not pressed, and preparations will go forward among all lawyers for hearing of the case.

An element of possible delay developed when a defense motion to join the Oakland County Road Commission and State Highway Department in the suit was granted by the judge. The addition of two more parties is viewed as inevitably tending to draw out proceedings, but those interested are agreed upon the desirability of early termination and will work diligently toward that end.

The Township's answer to the suit, filed prior to the hearing Monday, denies the city's contention that the municipality should not be required to pay for Covert roads in question and asserts that the City benefits greatly from the roads and is obligated to pay its share of their construction; asserts further that the City Clerk each year furnished the Board of Supervisors with a certificate showing that the City should be taxed for Covert roads in the amounts which were later levied against the municipality, that the city's representatives on the Board of Supervisors have levied as stated and the City is now stopped by law from action; denies that the City may sue on behalf of the property owners of the City; declares that more than six years have elapsed since levying and payment of the taxes, thus preventing recovery; and also that the Covert taxes being special assessments, the Township has never received any of the funds in question and could not file levy against the taxpayers of the Township as a whole to make payment even if the City's claim was valid, because Covert roads are special assessment undertakings.

**Resume Investigations**

Immediately following the hearing, representatives of all parties resumed their digging into the circumstances of the levy, which has, so far as known, no parallel in Michigan history.

Representing the City are Schulte and Pare of Farmington and Earl L. Phillips of Pontiac. City Counsel Robert D. Heltsch of Pontiac will handle the case for the County and probably Charles P. Webster of Pontiac for the State Highway Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steele attended the Jaunters Club supper Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Levee of Roseville. Some of the members are leaving Thursday for the yearly meeting of the N. E. A. which is held in Atlantic City. Mr. and Mrs. Steele do not expect to go this year.

## Hears Tax Suit



Frank L. Doty, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, who is hearing the Covert Road Tax suit in Pontiac.

## Township Buys New Fire Truck

Farmington Township soon will have a new fire truck. The Board voted to replace the old truck at a special meeting Wednesday night at the home of Harry N. McCracken, clerk, on 12 Mile Road. The truck the Board voted to buy is a Ford equipped with auxiliary springs and other essential accessories and 32x6 8-ply tires. The total cost amounts to about \$740.

Some time ago the Board asked for sealed bids on the truck from resident dealers and made its selection from those bids.

The new truck and equipment is expected to be delivered in not more than 60 days. It was mentioned at the meeting that the Board should delay its selection of a truck no longer because the annual sale of grass fires would soon begin, to say nothing of the possibility of a building fire, and the present truck was inadequate for heavy work.

A resolution was read and passed empowering Supervisor Arthur Cox to engage legal counsel to advise and direct the Board in putting into effect the resolution passed at the February 15 meeting concerning a complaint by residents of the Oakland Hills Orchard district that clogged drains along Orchard Lake Road with sewage into the basements of several houses. The resolution passed at that meeting provided that the Board loan not more than \$1500 for a drain to run along the east side of Orchard Lake Road with an assessment district established by the County Drain Commissioner.

The drain problem actually had been in existence several years, the residents said, but because of the heavy rains that flooded communities near Farmington, the problem was not taken up until now.

Another resolution passed at the special meeting authorized Supervisor Cox to retain Glenn C. Gillespie and Carl A. Braun as attorneys for the Township in the Covert road tax suit.

The Town Hall hearing in Pontiac Friday afternoon to try to reach an understanding of the ownership of the building also was mentioned, and it was suggested that a member of the Board attend the hearing. Mr. McCracken, virtually the only member who may be free that day, said he would attend if possible.

On Wednesday, March 2, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the American Legion will hold a Stanley Home Products demonstration at the home of Mrs. Ada Goers. This demonstration is open to the public and will be followed by a lunch.

## MASONS WILL STEP TO NEW AND OLD TUNES MARCH 1

Dancers will step to both old time and modern dance tunes at the Mason's Ball in the Town Hall Tuesday, March 1. More than 100 couples are expected to attend. The Heidelberg 8 will furnish the music.

During the dance lunch will be served in the Hall's dining room with Mrs. Mable Eckler and Mrs. Mae West, members of the committee, in charge. The decorations used in the Hall will be the same as those used at the Brotherhood dance.

Other members of the committee in charge include Arthur Lamb, chairman; Joe Himmelspach and Ed Alexander.

## Conference Friday On Town Hall

### Local Citizen Meets Man He Hunted In War

They met at a colorful military ball in Windsor last Friday night—Sidney "Gunsling" Farmington, past commander of the Detroit Post, British Legion, and Commander Herbert Busse, formerly of the German Imperial Navy, now of Redford, whose boat Mr. Gunsling hunted for a submarine when he commanded a submarine.

The ball, which was planned for months, drew members of the Royal Air Force and soldiers of the Allied and German armies as a gesture of peace and a social event of the cities that border the Detroit River. It brought together for the first time soldiers of both sides of the late war.

Because all the men present knew the horrors of armed combat, talk of the war was minimized. Good will was much more important.

"We know what the war was. Why should we talk?" they said, and let it go that.

### VIGOROUS FIGHT FOR TOWNSHIP POSTS PROMISED

The most spirited Democratic battle to capture Farmington Township offices in a generation is promised for the April election, following a party dinner and rally last Thursday evening in Salem Evangelical Church, Farmington, when State and County officials came to the community for the event. The occasion was a rally for all of southwestern Oakland County Democrats, and more than 150 were in attendance.

Although State officials were headline speakers, the promise of a vigorous Democratic campaign in Farmington Township was set forth by Paul Schreiber of Farmington, who served as keynote speaker. He asserted that "we will carry the battle into the camp of the enemy and into every home in the Township." Administration of welfare aid by present Township officials was attacked as being conducted at the expense of the needy cases are handled on the same basis and without individualizing the requirements. Mr. Schreiber also assailed the Township officials for not obtaining a greater quantity of WPA projects for benefit of both the Township and those in need of employment.

State officials who spoke were George T. Gundry, Auditor-General, and Draper Allen, director of the State Board of Tax Administration, which administers the sales tax. They told in an interesting manner of the administration of their department and the County. County President Franklin Morris told of law enforcement work in the county, and another speaker was Mrs. Thelma Bailey of Birmingham, director of public relations for women's activities of the Democratic State Central Committee. Frank N. Steele acted as toastmaster, and was presented by Paul A. Pare. The Township candidates for the April election were present.

Norman C. Lee was in charge of arrangements for the event, which was the largest Democratic rally in many years in this vicinity.

### Three Farmington Men Are Taken For a Ride

Frank H. Shoep, W. B. Gamble and Joseph Dehn were taken for a ride in a boat Sunday in Pontiac and driven into the Oakland County Jail where they feasted on bean soup, bread and black coffee.

In spite of this experience they believe that they came out ahead on the deal because the roughing was a part of their initiation into the Forty and Eight club, an honorary overseas organization, the fun-making department of the American Legion.

Only past officers and past commanders of the Legion are eligible for membership.

About 75 attended the event, which started with a breakfast taken for the ride under the pretext they were going to a hotel to dinner. The several hours they spent in jail ended happily when they were served a pre-dinner dinner in a hotel. Legions, home of the building for a gymnasium, which also could be used for a dance floor and auditorium. The hearing Friday in the office of Lawyers Pelton and McGee in Pontiac may result in quick action.

Another, and perhaps the last, of many conferences held throughout a number of years in the course of efforts to settle the question of ownership of the Farmington Town Hall property, is to be held Friday afternoon in Pontiac, attended by representatives of Farmington Township, City of Farmington, and the Masonic Lodge.

The conference may prove to be either the first of a new series that might lead to solution of the problem, or it it appears that the parties are so far apart that agreement of any kind is impossible. It is likely to be the last, with court determination following.

**Seek a Basis**

The call for the conference appears to be based on the hope that with lawyers and representatives of the three interests present, some basis may be laid for a settlement which would avoid a court controversy. Even though an agreement was reached it undoubtedly would have to be followed by a court proceeding which would clear the title, but the hope of those interested in the conference is that out of the meeting may be derived eventually a solution which would be agreeable to all and leave the court proceeding merely as a rallying formality.

The conference will be held in the office of Pelton and McGee, lawyers of the Township, at three o'clock. Former Justice Ernest Blanchard will preside over the Township. Joseph Himmelspach, the Masonic Lodge, and Mayor Warner and perhaps some of the Commissioners will be present on behalf of the City. Legal representatives will be Judge John J. Schutte and Earl Phillips for the City and Paul A. Pare for the Township, in addition to Mr. McGee.

While all previous conferences have failed, hope is still held out for this one. It is believed that will bring the parties and their legal representatives together under more favorable circumstances from a legal standpoint than ever before. Lawyers have had considerable time and effort to studying the problems, and the parties may, it appears, be able to develop a clearer understanding of the rights involved. Further, the innumerable of court controversy which might be long and costly, is looked upon as an element likely to provide an influence.

Likely to participate in the conference is Probate Judge James H. Lynch, who formerly presided over the Township, and has been the leader in urging a settlement without a long court battle. Judge Lynch, who has enjoyed lifelong friendship with hundreds of residents of the Farmington area, is frequently expressing his aversion to seeing dragged through the courts a long battle which might stir animosities.

### MAY DISCUSS REMODELING PLAN AT HALL HEARING

In conjunction with the hearing in Pontiac at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon on the ownership of the Town Hall, it is expected that some attempt will be made to determine the advisability of following the plan advanced recently by Joseph Himmelspach to enlarge the Hall to make it a worthwhile community recreation center.

Mr. Himmelspach suggested that the City, the Township and the Masons co-operate in taking advantage in the possible increase in W. E. A. projects. His plan proposes that the building be raised, two wings added and a basement built as a combination gymnasium and dance floor.

Under the plan the remodeled building would be put on a commercial basis to serve the community to the best advantage. A swimming pool, bowling alleys and the establishment of an adequate library would be provided for if the people wanted them.

Nearly everyone who uses the Hall agrees a change is needed, but opinions differ on the nature of the change.

Those not supporting Mr. Himmelspach's plan, which says they are making only minor changes to tearing down the present Hall and building a new one. Some believe the solution lies in the building of a high school near the building for a gymnasium, which also could be used for a dance floor and auditorium. The hearing Friday in the office of Lawyers Pelton and McGee in Pontiac may result in quick action.