The Farmington Enterprise

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Report 2 Identified In Bank Holdup

Two Detroit men are held, one in $50,000 bail on a charge of robbery armed, as police pursue their investigation into holdup of the Farmington State Bank last Friday noon, in which $5,730.30 was taken, after employes and customers had been forced to lie on the floor as the bandits carried on their work.

Walter McDonald, 43, has been formally charged with robbery armed and is held in $50,000 bail at Detroit police headquarters. Otto Barnowski, also 43, is held for investigation. He was arraigned before Federal Judge Moinet, and will have an examination April 18.

Conviction of the Farmington robbery might carry a term of 95 years under the Federal bank law, the Farmington bank being a member of the Federal Reserve System.

The suspects were arrested in rooming houses. Police say they each had several outfits of clothes at various places. McDonald, they say, had $57 when arrested, and $70 was found in a trunk at another place where he had roomed. He wore old clothes, police said, this being believed by them a ruse to divert suspicion.

So smoothly and quietly was the holdup carried out that two telephone workmen loitering at the entrance to the bank, on either side of the door, during the robbery were unaware of it.

Both suspects were picked up by Detroit police on information furnished by Deputy Sheriff Joe DeVriendt and State police.

Police say McDonald, who was arrested late Monday night, admits he has served 16 years in the Ohio state penitentiary and three years in Leavenworth, but denies he participated in the robbery of the

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Identifications Reported

Police state that the following identifications have been made by Farmington people, of the suspects being held:

By William VanEvery, Charles Schulkins, and Sam Turner—both suspects, as having been seen at the slight collision which occurred at Grand River and Grove just before the holdup;

By Deputy DeVriendt—Both men, as having been in Farmington previously and acted in such manner as to make him suspicious;

By George Wollgast—McDonald only, as the bandit who took his wallet with $157, in the bank.

By Francis Davis and Charles Lee—McDonald only, as the man they report they saw walk out of the bank and get into a car parked on Grand River, following the holdup.

Mystery Woman

Who is the "mystery woman" of the Farmington bank holdup?

At least one victim of the robbery is unknown as well as perhaps one or some of the perpetrators.

During the stickup, a woman unknown to any of the bank force or customers, came in and was forced to lie on the floor along with the rest. As soon as the bandits left, she got up, ran to the door and disappeared.

She has not been heard from since, and neither the bank employes or officers have any idea who she may be.

Tax List Available At The Enterprise

Copies of The Rochester Clarion, containing the Oakland County Delinquent Tax List for the 1938 tax sale to be held in May, are available at the Enterprise office. The publication lists properties in Oakland County upon which taxes are so far delinquent as to require their being sold, under the law, on May 3.

Due to the tremendous bookkeeping task covering many months that was involved in preparation of the list, some payments made in the past year to the County Treasurer may not have been recorded in time to prevent the property from being included in the tax list. However, it is emphasized that no property upon which taxes have been paid can or will be sold, even though the description might appear in the publication.

Students Start Spring Vacation

Farmington Public Schools closed Thursday afternoon for spring vacation. School will resume Monday, April 11.

The teachers will attend the annual Oakland County Teachers Institute to be held Friday in Pontiac High School. This institute gives the teachers an opportunity to get together and discuss school problems.

Alvin Benner, music director, already is in St. Louis, Mo., attending the National Band convention. This meeting is attended by band directors from all states in the union.

Average Vote Expected Monday

With the Farmington Township election only three days away, indications point to an average vote. Officials say they expected the number of votes to equal those of last year when 830 were cast for Supervisor.

Requests for absentee voters' ballots, usually a good indication of the vote, has not increased, Harry N. McCracken, Clerk, says.

The active campaign being carried on by the Democrats, however, may draw a large vote, upsetting the expectations. Members of the Democratic Club of the Township and City of Farmington will meet in Town Hall Friday night for a party and final rally before voting begins Monday.

Paul R. Schreiber, chairman of the publicity committee of the Club, makes the following statement:

"Our one campaign promise is good faith. Our chief interest lies in introducing alert leadership, capable of foreseeing the needs of the Township and effectively meeting them. We believe that the Republican officials have been honest in their stewardship. We raise only one question: Have they shown the necessary aggressive leadership in making the Township a better place in which to live? That they have not is the honest opinion of many of the Township voters. We appeal to the voters to weigh this question carefully. We will accept their judgment as final. Should a majority decide in favor of a change for the coming year we can assure them that their trust and confidence will not be misplaced. Our candidates, if elected, will cooperate all along the line; they will not let the people down."

The Republicans are basing their campaign on the lower taxes and better financial condition of the government. The finances of the Township are the best they have been for a long time, they claim.

Candidates for Township offices:

Democrat—Harvey W. Perry, Supervisor; Charles A. Bardwell, Clerk; Ethel C. Smith, Treasurer; Floyd D. Hallock, Justice of the Peace; Albert H. Koss, member Board of Review; Leo Wedyke, Constable.

Republican—Arthur P. Coe, Supervisor; Harry N. McCracken, Clerk; Loretta E. Cox, Treasurer; Ward Eagle, Justice of the Peace; Don B. Button, member Board of Review; Louis A. Hersch, Constable.

All the Republican candidates are incumbents. The names of one Highway Commissioner and three Constables are to be written in.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steele were Sunday visitors at the new home of their nephew, Jack Brannack and family, in Pontiac.

Mrs. Charles Thornton and daughter Nancy Kaye of Trenton spent from Friday until Sunday evening with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hess and family, who formerly occupied the Sam Billings home on Purlingbrook Road, have moved to the Southfield district.

BULLETIN

Telephone service between Farmington and Detroit was disrupted for hours Thursday. It was impossible to telephone either by long distance or any of the direct lines.

Production In Wall Plant To Start Soon

Reconstruction of the two-building plant of the Wall Chemical company, destroyed by fire early Friday morning, is under way, Ed Sulkowski, superintendent, says. The rebuilding will not be completed for some time, but company officials expect to start production in about three weeks.

The plant is located on Grand River near Haggerty highway, three miles from Farmington.

Sulkowski says the company has not revealed the amount of the loss, although valuable equipment for the manufacture of anesthetic gases was destroyed.

Fire spreading to the supply of nitrous oxide used in the manufacture of acetylene gas caused the explosions, it is said.

Many residents in Farmington and outlying districts were awakened about 6 o'clock by the fire siren closely followed by six explosions. The explosions could be heard several miles away.

No casualities were reported, although one truck was destroyed.

Flames were shooting 50 feet in to the air, Chief Ed Thayer of Farmington said, when volunteer fire companies of Farmington and Novi arrived. The firemen could do little with the fire but prevented it from spreading to the larger building occupied by Aetna Gases, Inc., a subsidiary of the Wall company.

"SEEING EYE" SAVES BLIND LAWYER TWICE

Twice his "seeing eye," a large male German police dog, has saved him from possible injury or death as they crossed Detroit streets through heavy traffic, Ellsworth G. Smith, blind Detroit lawyer, told the Exchange Club at the regular luncheon meeting Wednesday noon.

However, he has had few such narrow escapes and feels quite safe as the dog leads him through the city, Mr. Smith said. He told the Club of his training in the school of Seeing Eye, Inc., in Morristown, N. J., coloring his talk with incidents that happened during the course and in his daily work in Detroit.

Mr. Smith gave striking illustrations of the dog's keen memory. Only once does the dog need to go over a route before he knows it. Mr. Smith once visited the home of a friend. Three months later as he passed in front of the house, the dog made a quarter turn, indicating Mr. Smith was near a place where he had stopped before and could stop again if he wished.

The dog is trained first to obey certain commands. Then he is taught when not to obey them. The dog is taught to stop before all obstructions such as curbings and must not continue until he is given the command, "go forward." Then he continues only if it is safe. If unsafe, he must not move in spite of the command.

When the dog obeys a command, Mr. Smith says, "good boy." But if the dog should disobey, making a left turn instead of a right turn, the spoken criticism is "phooey."

Only 25 percent of the dogs selected for "seeing eyes" are trained successfully, Mr. Smith said, and only one out of six persons are suitable for owning a dog.

Persons who can own "seeing eyes" must take the training course in the school. This lasts from a month to 10 weeks, and only eight persons are trained at one time.

Giving the dog his confidence probably was the most valuable and one of the most difficult lessons Mr. Smith learned, he said.

"If you don't think it's hard to trust yourself with a dog, no matter how intelligent he may be, blindfold yourself and try it," he told the Club.

Mrs. Louis Miner and daughter Lorraine and mother, Mrs. McManus of Power avenue left Monday morning to visit the latter's daughter, who is confined to a hospital in New York.

Miss Gertrude Richardson was given a surprise party last Thursday evening by members of the M. E. Church choir, in honor of her birthday anniversary.

Douglas Parker slipped and fell while playing baseball on the lot near his home Wednesday evening. Doug sprained his ankle, with a possible fracture of the bone.

To Flood Grand River With Light

Grand River avenue through Farmington from Detroit to Lansing is soon to be the scene of an important experiment in a new type of highway lighting—the first of its kind anywhere in the world—which may revolutionize all present illumination practice, make night driving really safe, and bring vast economic results which now can be only partly visualized.

Installation of the new system, which is expected to provide safe illumination under practically all conditions and without the use of lamps, wires, or current, is going forward rapidly under the direction of State Highway Commissioner Murray D. (Pat) Van Wagoner.

The commissioner announces plans for the installation of powerful reflectors, 10 times as strong as any now in use, on Grand River from the edge of Detroit to Lansing. It will be the first installation of this type on a public highway in the world.

A radical departure from the usual glass buttons, the new reflectors are made of water-clear, flexible, and non-shattering plastic which molds much more accurately than glass. The reflectors will give drivers a clear view of the road a mile ahead. Their installation follows exhaustive tests made with them at the General Motors Proving Ground at Milford at the request of the commissioner.

Initial Showing April 6

Although installation already is under way, the reflectors will not be placed in use until next Wednesday night, April 6, when national and state highway, safety and automotive leaders will view a "premiere" of the "night lighting" to be shown in a ride from Detroit to Lansing.

The reflectors will be spaced every 100 feet along the 70-mile rural section between Detroit and Lansing except at intersections. Three buttons will be cast into each of the steel standards which will be set into the ground at the edge of the shoulders. The reflectors are 1½ inches in diameter compared with the 3/16 to 3/4 inch size of present ones in use.

Commissioner Van Wagoner said he regarded the "night lighting" scheme as the most important recent contribution to highway safety. He emphasized their value in avoiding rear-end collisions and pedestrian accidents, in penetrating fog, and relieving driver fatigue. Cost of the project approximates $25,000—much less than an average grade separation.

No operating fees will be levied.

Polite Fellows!

Farmington State Bank's bandit "guests" were "the most polite fellows you ever saw," reports Cashier Howard C. Knickerbocker. When one came into the directors' room, the cashier said, the robber ordered Knickerbocker and Mrs. Arvale Tipper to go into the front room and lie down, and assured them politely that if they did as ordered they would have nothing to fear. "We're not going to harm you at all," he said, "Nobody's going to get hurt."

No More Driver Licenses Will Be Issued Here

No more driver or chauffeur licenses will be issued in Farmington, Joe DeVriendt, Deputy Sheriff, says. All licenses will be issued in Pontiac under the rules of the new law providing for driver examination. The cost, however, will not change.

Michigan's most sweeping safety measure, the examination of motorists before granting them driving licenses, goes into effect Friday, April 1.

Two hundred eighteen stations will be open to check ability of Michigan drivers to operate their cars with safety to themselves and others. Examinations are set up to make good the rule that "to have safe driving you must have safe drivers."

The law providing for driver examination was passed by the legislature in 1937 and various state agencies have been busy setting up machinery for its operation. Preparations were completed during the past week with final shipment of supplies to examining stations by the Michigan State Police.

Those who obtained licenses this year will not be required to appear for examinations until 1941. Those to qualify for examinations are drivers whose licenses have expired or are soon to expire.

The tests for those now driving will include vision examinations and knowledge of traffic laws. New operators also must give a demonstration of driving.

"We want to check the qualifications of drivers as well as their capacity to maneuver a car on the road," Commissioner Olander said. "The chief purpose of these examinations is to educate drivers to their responsibility on the highway.

"It is realized that most of the drivers of the state are competent," he continued. "However, the only way to find those who are not competent and are unsafe is to examine all. The cooperation of those who can easily show their driving proficiency is therefore sought in a new procedure which safety research has shown will be a truly life-saving instrument."

Road Booklet

One step in affording the public

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Elevated Roadway Would Put Farmington Within ½ Hour of Downtown Detroit

A project which would bring to the Grand River area from Redford through Farmington the greatest suburban development of any section adjacent to Detroit, and perhaps the greatest in that city's entire history, is under consideration by State and Detroit officials, in the form of an elevated roadway for buses from downtown Detroit to Redford. The proposed new overhead highway for buses would bring Farmington within half an hour of downtown Detroit either by fast buses on the aerial roadway or by travel on the present surface roadway, from which the street cars would be removed, and which would be reserved for private vehicle car traffic.

While the proposed highway, for which drawings are already being made by the State Highway Department under the direction of Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner, is designed principally to relieve congested conditions on Grand River in Detroit described by Detroit officials as having reached the stage of "impossible", even more far-reaching possibilities than relief of congestion are seen for this area if the project is carried through. It is the universal experience in connection with the growth of big cities that large population development naturally follows establishment of rapid, convenient transit facilities, outstanding examples being the Bronx and other suburbs of New York, and Evanston on the north side of Chicago, among others.

It is believed that mere announcement of intention to proceed with the plan would produce an immense impetus toward drawing of population to this section, followed by a vast development which would probably build the area from Farmington to Redford solid with homes and business places.

20-Minute Service

If the roadway is built, only buses and perhaps trucks would use it as a route. Street car tracks and safety zones would be ripped from the center of Grand River. This additional space in addition to the transfer of the bus route would eliminate the necessity of widening the avenue.

All buses would be able to make the run from Redford to the Loop in less than 20 minutes it is believed, because no stop lights, intersections or automobile congestion would be allowed.

Buses would unload at the second floors of the large downtown department buildings.

This quick service also would remove cars from the avenue, relieving congestion all the more.

One of the questions the Highway Department will have to answer is the cost of the undertaking. There are no definite figures, but estimates the cost of widening Grand River would approximate 25 million dollars. Condemnation awards would take the greatest portion of this, while the city and state would pay no condemnation fees for the elevated roadway which would span the avenue from steel pillars sunk at the curbs.

Under the proposal, the project would be financed through Detroit's portion of weight and gas taxes with the possibility the DSR might contribute the cost of upkeep of its surface Grand River line.

When the State's drawings of the elevated speedway are finished, officials will present them to the Common Council. If the Council approves the plan, the City would submit the project to the voters at the next election.

Tuesday evening dinner guests at the A. L. Ross home included Mr. and Mrs. William Lovejoy of Cheboygan, Mrs. Harry Hutchins and Mrs. Don Bailey of Gaylord, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lovejoy and Mr. and Mrs. Fernstrum and family of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. John McClelland and family of Lake Orion. Mrs. Hutchins and Mrs. Bailey remained over night returning to Gaylord on Wednesday.

Mrs. Trenna Banks and Mrs. Hattie DeVriendt called on their brother, Harley, at his home in Detroit, Monday. Although still unable to leave the house, Mr. Catherman is much improved following his recent illness.

Richard Schreiber is ill with the measles.

Plans Revolutionary Lighting Experiment

State Highway Commissioner Murray D. (Pat) Van Wagoner is directing the revolutionary lighting experiment on Grand River soon to be in operation—the first of its kind in the entire world.

Town Team To Practice Sunday

Farmington town baseball candidates will meet on the high school diamond Sunday at 1:30 p. m. for the first practice of the year, H. F. Brennan, manager and newly-elected secretary-treasurer of the Farmington Athletic Club, says all men interested in playing with the team this year are to report to the field Sunday for the work-out.

Although the schedule is not completed, it is expected that all home games will be played on the high school field. Members of the Inter-County League will meet soon to make final schedule arrangements.

At a meeting of the Club this week officers elected besides Mr. Brennan are Eddie Caudell, president and John Cox, vice-president.

Cox, an outfielder, and Caudell, a pitcher, are two of the five veterans who will be back with the team this year. Others are the Rosenboom boys—Gussie, pitcher; Roy, shortstop, and Eddie catcher.

Teams in the League include Wyandotte, Inkster, Garden City, Plymouth, Plymouth Perfection, Northville, Haggerty-Schraders (Plymouth) and Ypsilanti.

Lemuel and Mrs. Irving and Chucky were the Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Irving's aunt, Mrs. Mary Carey at North Farmington. In the afternoon they called on George Hellker, who has been very ill, and in the evening they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Graham.

WOMAN'S CLUB TO MEET WITH MRS. MARY JOHNSON

The Farmington Woman's Club will meet Wednesday, April 6, at the home of Mrs. Mary Johnson on Farmington Road. The program is in charge of the Applied Education Department, with Mrs. M. B. Pierce as chairman. The topic of the day will be "The Sugar Beet Industry in Michigan."

Mrs. Imogene Bicking was hostess to the club last Wednesday, and gave a most entertaining talk on plants and flowers and answered questions.

Two other meetings of interest to members will be held this week. The Oakland County Federation is meeting Friday, April 1 at the Community House in Birmingham. The Rev. Frederick Seidenburg, Executive Dean of the University of Detroit, will be the speaker of the day. On Monday, April 4, the Farmington Club is invited to attend a meeting of the Redford Club at 1:45 at the Calvary Methodist Church. It is hoped the local club will be well represented.

ISLE OF BALI TO BE FEATURE OF PICTURE LECTURE

The wonders of Bali with its simple civilization, its gorgeous scenery, its exotic dances will be the feature of a motion picture lecture to be presented at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Woodward at Kirby, Sunday afternoon, April 3, at 3:30, by Capt. Gypsy Pat Smith, soldier, orator and adventurer.

With natural color motion pictures accompanied by his humorous and informative commentary, Captain Smith will take his audience on a tour of Bali and, in addition, visit the Celebes, Java, Singapore, Malaya, Siam, Cambodia, Angkor Wat, and Indo-China. He will show the natives in their native villages performing their daily tasks, observing their strange religious and social ceremonies.

Captain Smith was born in a gypsy tent outside of Glasgow, Scotland, and lived with the gypsies until he was 18 years of age. Following the World War, during which he served in the British army, he has sought adventure in the out-of-the-way places of the world. With his motion picture camera he has made a documentary and human interest record of his strange experiences.