

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, January 19, 1972

15¢ a Copy

Ruling Confirms Vagnozzi's Faith

By MARTHA MAHAN
Cleared of an assault charge brought by a political foe, Farmington Board of Education Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi said the verdict will encourage honorable men to continue to seek public office.

"If the decision had gone the other way, persons of good reputation would think twice before running for public office, especially the school board," Vagnozzi commented after the trial.

PLYMOUTH'S DISTRICT Judge Dunbar Davis, hearing the case without a jury, found Vagnozzi innocent after a day-long trial Friday in Plymouth. The hearing was moved there after Farmington District Judge Michael Hand disqualified himself because of his friendship with the defendant.

The charge was brought by Mrs. Mary Kenny, who alleged Vagnozzi grabbed her by the arm, bruising it, as she

sought signatures at a shopping center on recall petitions against him and three other school board members who had voted in favor of sex education in Farmington Schools.

Even if it were true that Vagnozzi had grabbed her arm, the judge said, he did not believe there was any intent to cause her physical harm, and a charge of assault involves an intent to do bodily hurt.

Mrs. Kenny at first appeared stunned at the verdict, then reacted bitterly.

"It's obvious he's a political man," she said about Vagnozzi. "He knows how to do these things and I don't."

A DOZEN Harrison High school seniors were among the crowd which nearly filled the courtroom, most of them Vagnozzi sympathizers.

Vagnozzi testified that he was headed for a grocery store in the shopping center when he saw Mrs. Kenny

seated at a table with the recall petitions. After hearing what he regarded as inaccurate statements by Mrs. Kenny about the sex education program, Vagnozzi said he felt it was his duty as a school board member to stand by and offer to give any prospective petition signers the facts.

"I introduced myself and offered to answer any questions they had on the programs," Vagnozzi said.

There was "some discussion back and forth" between himself and Mrs. Kenny, Vagnozzi said, and their disagreement at times was caustic. But he never grabbed her, hit her or had any intent to "hurt or commit assault on her in any way, shape or form," Vagnozzi said.

He subsequently assisted her in following her table and chairs and leading them into the trunk of her car, the defendant testified.

VAGNOZZI WAS supported in his testimony by Mrs. Lolita Henson of 34638 W. Nine Mile, an instructor in foreign languages at Oakland Community College. Mrs. Henson said she had been on the scene during the time Mrs. Kenny claimed she was assaulted, but did not see Vagnozzi touch Mrs. Kenny.

Mrs. Theresa Kanka of 33871 Harlan Drive, testified on behalf of Mrs. Kenny that she saw Vagnozzi place his hand on Mrs. Kenny's shoulder and "put pressure" on it and later observed him take her by the arm and pull it back. Mrs. Kanka testified that she had called township police at Mrs. Kenny's request and reported a man causing a disturbance.

Mrs. Kenny's daughter, Ann, told the court that she, too, saw Vagnozzi grab her mother by the arm. None of the nine pictures of the scene,

which Ann Kenny said she snapped, showed Vagnozzi touching Mrs. Kenny.

A picture of her right arm, showing a bruise, was taken by police four days after the incident, Mrs. Kenny testified, and defense attorney Jack Bain contended the bruise had been caused after the shopping center dispute.

Paul Bibeau, a township attorney handling the prosecution, said he contacted all those who signed the petition that morning and found only three who said they had been there when the alleged altercation happened. All three told him, Bibeau said, that they "did not observe any commotion or any touching of Mrs. Kenny."

APPEARING as character witnesses for Vagnozzi were: Jeffrey Leib, former Oakland County assistant prosecutor now in private law practice; Robert E. Forbes, executive

director of the Chrysler Fund; Farmington Township Trustee Fred Lichtman; John Victor Stockell, national marketing manager of the Shedd-Bartush Division of Beatrice Food Corp. and active in Boy Scouting and PTA; and Mrs. Dorothy Newman of 28226 Dumbarton, a neighbor of Vagnozzi.

Also: Mrs. Jean Gully of 26181 Kiltarton, Vagnozzi's next door neighbor; Gerald A. Freedman, an attorney and member of the Democratic State Central Committee; Dr. Roderick Smith, superintendent of Farmington Schools; Gary L. Lichtman, former member of the Farmington Board of Education and now a member of the Oakland County Intermediate School District board of education; and the Rev. Hugh B. Stewart, pastor of St. Stephen United Presbyterian Church.

Teachers Sue

The union for Farmington teachers has started legal action in circuit court against the Farmington Board of Education. The charge the board has ignored an arbitrator's ruling is detailed inside.

Page 5A

Reviewing Peel

The League of Women Voters is holding a meeting open to the public to explore Farmington's past, present and future, with special emphasis on land use. The program will spotlight the past with a review of Lee Peel's book, "A Pictorial History of Farmington."

Page 3A

Ecumenical Sports

The Farmington Area YMCA is adding classes in gymnastics for youth and physical fitness for adults. The expansion is made possible by the cooperation of Hillside Day School and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Pages 3-4A

Raiders Win

The Falcons and Hawks lost their cage clashes, but the Raiders bombed Groves. See today's sport pages for complete game stories.

Sec. B

Service?

Business cards offering advice on abortions have been appearing on car windshields in Observerland parking lots. Our reporter called the number listed to find out about this new "service." Her story is in today's Women's Section.

Page 1C

Judge For Bussing

Federal Judge John Feikens isn't handling the Detroit school desegregation case, but he's a colleague of the man who is, and last week Feikens told an Observerland audience why he favors cross-district bussing.

Page 6C

Amusements	8-9B
Classified Want Ads	Sec. D
Cooking, by Elly	11B
Deaths and Funerals	13B
Editorial Viewpoints	12B
Home and Garden	5-6B
Readers' Forum	13B
Regional Affairs	10B
Sports - Prep and Pro	1-4B
Ski Hill!	2B
Spotlight on Women	1-5C



If you have a brand new addition to your family - or are expecting one - be sure to check the Observer Classified section for special service items - like cribs and clothes. Trust like the money you have and not in a college fund. Observer would like to help you grow up!

Call 522-0900 today!



FIRE STRIKES TWICE — The home of Thomas Harriman on Tulane, Farmington Township, has been damaged by fire twice in the past year. Fire Sunday destroyed his belongings and gutted the inside of his home. (Everett photo)

City Pays Assessments For Drake Anti-Pavers

If Drake Road receives an asphalt improvement project, the project will be financed with \$10,000 coming from the general fund to pay for the share of balking homeowners fronting Drake.

Monday night, the Farmington City Council voted 3-1 to proceed with plans to asphalt Drake with half the cost being borne by the city and half by the major commercial, multiple and office users.

Mayor Wilbur Brotherton cast the dissenting vote, and Councilman John Richardson was absent.

THE CITY'S half includes special assessments it will pay for Drake Road Park as well as the \$10,000 which would have been assessed against Drake Road residents. Homeowners told councilmen they were opposed to paving Drake, whether they were assessed or the city - at large paid for their share.

By agreeing to pay the \$10,000, the council deleted the objections from the proposed special assessment district and removed their legal right to officially voice objections.

The next step will be a hearing by the council beginning at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 on establishing the assessment roll which deletes Drake homeowners and taxes such heavy users as Drake's Apartment, the Drake Shopping Center, Drake Road

Park and the Boron Gas Station at Drake and Grand River.

CITY MANAGER John Dinan recommended to the council that the Drake homeowners be deleted after the residents petitioned against an offer made by Standard Construction Co. to pay the homeowners' share if they went along with the firm's rezoning request for cluster housing on 22 acres off Drake.

The offer of Bruce Polozek of Standard Construction was passed on to homeowners through Dinan, who acted as an intermediary between the developer and Al Holm, president of the Drake Heights Homeowners Association.

Polozek's offer was officially presented at the Jan.

10 meeting of the city planning commission. Monday night, Holm and Robert Champness of Drake Rd. presented petitions to the council from homeowners rejecting Polozek's offer.

Champness argued that the council had neither the moral nor legal right to accept Polozek's offer and pave Drake over the objections of property owners in the affected proposed special assessment district.

DINAN said paving was very important because the road serves over 50 families and must be upgraded to provide proper entrance to Drake Heights subdivision, Drake's Apartment, the city park and Longacre Elementary School.

"We have a rather unique

situation where three or four older residents on the street have large parcels of land," Dinan said. "A special assessment may create a hardship based on the amount of usage of the road in relationship to their frontage."

Speaking on the city paying the homeowners' share, Dinan said: "We believe the city certainly could justify this approach since we originally had anticipated paving this road at no cost to the property owners from our gas and weight tax revenue and this would be somewhat of a compromise where the heavy traffic generators would pay for this capital improvement to their properties."

Continued on Page 4A

Council Honors Hamlin

Mr. Oakland County commissioner in December, an announcement made in the Jan. 8 edition of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

Hamlin, 67, has served 42 years in government including: nine years as a city councilman after getting elected at age 25; 10 years as mayor; and 26 years as county commissioner during which he was commission chairman for 13 years.

Hamlin humbly accepted the proclamation Monday night with the suggestion that much of the credit was owed to others.

"PEOPLE who are accidentally placed in leadership positions often get credit for things they don't deserve," Hamlin commented, adding that recognition must be given for things accomplished by past councilmen and commissioners.

"I was just one tool in the political process," Hamlin concluded by expressing appreciation for the recognition, "especially since it comes from my hometown. When you have lived 42 years in one town and people are still speaking to you, that's something!"

Hamlin has already resigned from his positions on the city's board of review and zoning board of appeals and has announced he will not seek re-election as county commissioner this fall.

Hamlin concluded by expressing appreciation for the recognition, "especially since it comes from my hometown. When you have lived 42 years in one town and people are still speaking to you, that's something!"

Hamlin has already resigned from his positions on the city's board of review and zoning board of appeals and has announced he will not seek re-election as county commissioner this fall.



DELOS HAMLIN

Family Is Homeless 2nd Time

By EMORY DANIELS
Lightning may never strike twice in the same place, but fire does - and has - in one year twice gutted the home of Thomas Harriman, 27, of 21955 Tulane, Farmington Township.

Fire completely gutted his home Sunday afternoon, Jan. 16 - the same home that was ravished by fire on Jan. 28, 1971.

For the second time in 12 months, the Harriman family is homeless and must start from scratch.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS were met Sunday night thanks to tips given community agencies by neighbors.

The St. Vincent De Paul society of St. Alexander Catholic parish of Farmington, whose boundaries include the Harriman residence, contributed shoes for the three children, ages two, three and five.

FISIL, Inc. of Farmington-Southfield, a group of concerned Christians who have organized to help persons as Christ would, was also contacted Sunday and outfitted the family in clothes.

Jack Byrnes of St. Vincent Society says he has lined up three cribs for the youngsters and a chest of drawers. Concerned residents have made offers to donate appliances and furniture.

"I will need furniture. Mine was all burned in the fire," Harriman said Monday. "But first, I've got to find a house to rent to put the furniture inside."

Harriman, who works at Northville State Hospital, says insurance should take care of structural damage to the house, but the belongings collected since the 1971 fire have been destroyed.

LAST YEAR'S fire started in sub-zero weather also. Harriman's waterpipes had frozen, and he was attempting to thaw them with a blowtorch when the fire started.

This year, Harriman was watching the Super Bowl on television when he noticed smoke coming down from the upstairs bedroom at about 3 p.m.

His five-year-old son had come downstairs about five or ten minutes before the smoke was noticed by Harriman, who says he has no idea how the blaze started.

FIRE STATIONS One and Five responded to the fire on Tulane north of Grand River and west of Middle Belt.

Firemen's initial suspicion was the fire started at the furnace which was being overworked by the sub-zero temperatures. The cause is still under investigation.

Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples said Monday he is concerned because, although there are water lines serving Tulane, there are no fire hydrants within the subdivision, which has been there about 10 years. Teeples was misled in learning about the lack of fire hydrants because the subdivision is part of the old Section 36 water system and was served by water before the rest of the township.

Teeples talked Monday afternoon with Ray Alexander, director of the Oakland County DPW, and arranged for a meeting on Jan. 26 to determine how many hydrants are in Sections 35, 36 and consider suggestions for installing hydrants.

Firefighters had to hook up to a hydrant on Grand River, two blocks north of Harriman's residence, to get water to put out the fire.