

Report Given On Farmington Schools

The following letter was recently received by Mr. E. V. Ayres, superintendent of Farmington Public Schools. The writer of the letter, Edgar G. Johnston, is assistant director of the Bureau of Cooperation with Educational Institutions of the University of Michigan, and chairman of the North Central Commission for Michigan. Mr. Johnston recently made a visit to the High School, and this letter was written shortly afterwards. Mr. Johnston writes:

"I enjoyed my necessarily brief visit to Farmington High School last Wednesday and was favorably impressed with the general spirit and instructional program of the school and the evidences of continued progress since my last visit three years ago.

"Particularly notable is the improvement of the library which has evidently become a very effective resource for classroom instruction and general reading by pupils. There is a refreshing lack of 'dead wood' on the library

shelves, excellent reference and periodical sections, and a notable addition of significant recent books. I was glad to note the provision of valuable pamphlet materials and provisions for the way for cataloging it for more effective use. While there are certain areas which need further development (for example, recent books in economics and a well chosen selection of modern plays), I am sure that you and Miss Abbott are aware of these needs and working toward their correction. There seems to be a fine spirit of cooperation between the library and classroom teachers. This factor contributes to the effective use which is the real measure of the value of a library.

"I was interested also in the extensive use of visual aid materials, especially in the science courses. The recent addition of an aircraft engine should prove a valuable aid in making the course in aerodynamics realistic. A further feature of your school deserving recognition is the provision for physical education activities for both boys and girls throughout the elementary grades and the high school. I was glad to see the extensive use of the playground and of your fine athletic field almost continuously throughout the morning.

"Good progress has been made in building up individual pupil records and a guidance program. The use of the Kuder scale for all pupils, the use of the new record form CASR, the administration of

other recognized tests, and assignment of teachers to guidance responsibilities for small groups with continuity throughout the period of the pupils' high school attendance are all forward looking steps. I have some questions as to whether teachers as a whole are fully familiar with the test data provided or have the background necessary to make their guidance work with pupils most effective. This is natural in view of the urgency of the need of organization. It would seem desirable for you, Mr. Bates and Miss Dammon to develop an inservice program specially related to the development of guidance work. It would probably be desirable, also, to encourage some teachers to include work in guidance in summer session study.

"The instructional program generally showed evidences of teacher planning, a desirable degree of pupil participation in classroom activities, and excellent relationship between teachers and pupils. I was especially impressed with the variety and amount of reading material provided for the elementary grade rooms and the evidence of reading progress for those grades.

"I am sure that you and your Board of Education are more familiar than the visitor could be with some of the pressing problems which the school faces as a result of increased enrollment in the elementary grades and the inadequacies of the present school plant. Several of the elementary grade rooms are seriously overcrowded. I know that you have in mind relief of some of the situation for next year. The shop is especially handicapped by limited space and the necessity of using part of that space for the mechanical drawing work. It is to be hoped that the plans made several years ago for addition to the shop and restoration of the room now used by the first grade to the mechanical drawing work can be carried out in the near future. The cafeteria has already been outgrown and the chemistry laboratory is seriously crowded.

The laboratory also suffers from insufficient illumination. I was glad to see the installation of fluorescent lighting fixtures in some of the rooms and should suggest this one as an early addition to that list.

"It is evident that the school has a healthy and stable future. It is probably that the organization of the township unit there should be an early development since you are now serving pupils from most of the township. Congratulations on the general excellence of the school.

Sincerely yours,
Edgar G. Johnston."

UNDERSHERIFF THOMAS ENTERS SHERIFF'S RACE

For 21 years a resident of Oakland County, Undersheriff Edward K. Thomas has entered the Sheriff's race after having been in the department for the past twelve years. The past three years he has been Undersheriff and for the past six years he has been in charge of all liquor licenses. He has been commended for his fine work by the former Michigan Liquor Commission and also by the present one.

Mr. Thomas has kept Oakland County free from gambling and racketeering and personally apprehended the parking bandits that were terrorizing the community. Upon several occasions he has been commended for his fine work by our Oakland County Circuit Judges. Mr. Thomas has a record of Law Enforcement experience that really qualifies him for the important office of Sheriff.

Mr. Thomas is a member of the Elks Lodge No. 810, the Masonic Lodge No. 510, the Pontiac Eagles, Christian Club, the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, past President of the Metropolitan Club and a member of the S.E. Michigan's Association of Chiefs of Police. He resides in Pontiac at 105 Mohawk Rd. with Mrs. Thomas and their daughter, Peggy.

LOCALS

Mrs. Arthur Lamb and daughter, Marietta, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Blackmore in Ypsilanti.

Charles Diamond, Jr., left this week for Ann Arbor, where he is enrolled as a freshman at the University of Michigan.

A guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Putman, 31130 Ten Mile Road, is Staff Sergeant John W. Putman, whose nephew, who has returned from England on a 30-day furlough, after completing enough missions to entitle him to the furlough. S/Sgt. Putman is a tall gunner on a fortress.



Service Notes

Cpl. Albert A. Pierce has returned to his base at Belle Field, Fla. after a ten day furlough spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ward, 28025 Greening.

Word has been received from Homer Middlewood, who was stationed in England at the time he wrote a letter on May 30, telling of his promotion to Sergeant.

Pfc Charles Larson, who was wounded in Italy, returned to this country last Thursday, and is now at a hospital in Ohio, where he will receive medical treatment.

Mr. George A. Davis received a phone call from Lt. James L. Davis on Father's Day. Lt. Davis is now stationed at the Marine Air Station at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Word has been received from Pvt. William E. Dallas, who is now a prisoner in Germany, stating that he is well. He was captured at Casterno January 30.

Pvt. Howard Westphal is home on furlough from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The following poem was written and submitted by Private Sylvester Farmer, now stationed at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. I'm just an ordinary guy, You've seen millions go by. They told me I was fit, So I'm here to do my bit.

I'm in the Army you know, Just a fellow called Joe. But to my little family, A pride, I'll try to be. For me, the day has come, I've heard that final drum, Farewell to all, and then across, To make my bid, at Hitler's loss.

Private Ralph L. Banfield, son of Mrs. Kate Banfield, 34219 Grand River Avenue, is now stationed at South Plains Army Air Field at Lubbock, Texas. Private Banfield is now taking "on the line" training at SPAAF in starting the routine which will lead to wings as a pilot, bombardier or navigator in the Army Air Forces. He graduated from Farmington High School in 1933 and later attended Alma College, where he was a member of Phi Phi Alpha fraternity.

Word has been received during the week that Staff Sergeant Joseph W. Wilkinson has arrived safely in England.

Wesley Smith has been promoted to the rank of Corporal.

At the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, potential pilots, bombardiers and navigators are receiving preflight training to prepare them for aerial instruction and duties as aircrew members in the Army Air Forces. The present class includes 309 from Michigan, and in this number is Shirlie O. Kilgore, 24435 Hathaway Street, Farmington.

George F. Wackenhut, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wackenhut, has been promoted from the grade

of Private to that of Private First Class at the Army Service Forces Training Center, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. At the time of his promotion Pfc Wackenhut was serving in the 1380th Engineer Petroleum Distribution Company.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Palmer of 20015 Merriman Road, recently had the pleasure of having three of their four sons in service all home on furlough at the same time. Those who were home were Sergeant A. B. Palmer of the Army Air Forces, Truxey Field, Madison, Wisconsin; Richard Palmer, RM 1/6, of the U.S. Coast Guard, who spent 22 months in the North Atlantic, and Edward West Palmer, who has just finished boot training at Great Lakes, Illinois.

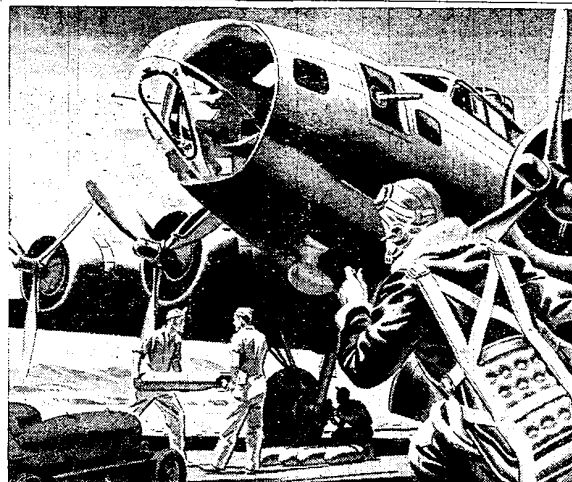
A letter has been received from Corporal Reuben W. Tilley, dated June 3, stating that he is well and safe. Mrs. Tilley, Bud's mother, wishes to thank all his friends who have inquired about him.

Myron Coon is stationed at Camp Blanding, Florida. Mrs. Coon, the former Betty Ready, has left to join him there.

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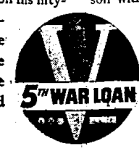
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