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Today's
hot line

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Close For Tre-Ore

The Observer Newspapers general offices at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, and the Southfield editorial office at 20099 W. 12 Mile, will be closed for business and the switchboards off from noon to 3 p.m. on Good Friday, March 31, to allow employees to attend services in the churches of their choice.

Roth Turns Down Detroit-Only Plan

Federal Judge Stephen Roth appears today to be paving the way for a metropolitan-wide school integration plan by his rejection of all three Detroit-only plans presented to him.

Roth's ruling, contained in a six-page opinion, came as introduction of metropolitan plans began in his U.S. District courtroom in Detroit. "That the court must look beyond the limits of the Detroit School District is obvious," Roth said.

Roth said the court has authority — "nay, the duty" — to integrate schools on a metropolitan basis on the strength of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling that declared "separate but equal" facilities unconstitutional.

The metropolitan plan was filed by the State Dept. of Education. This plan includes the metropolitan area (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties) as a tax base although all school districts in them wouldn't necessarily be integrated.

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When your Observer carrier stops his bike at your doorstep this month and says, "Collect," be sure you ask for a receipt. It's worth its face value toward an Observer Want Ad.

Or if you collect three consecutive receipts you are entitled to a free Observer Want Ad.

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Bussing Referendum To Be Placed On Township Ballot

By EMORY DANIELS

An advisory referendum on bussing will be placed on the May 16 ballot to allow Farmington Township residents to express their opinions on bussing (students) to achieve racial balance in the schools.

The referendum wording was approved by a 4-3 vote at Monday night's regular meeting of the all-Republican board.

Trustee Earl Oppertbauer asked for the advisory referendum and received "yes" votes from Treasurer Thomas Nolan, Clerk Floyd Cairns and Trustee Margaret Schaeffer.

Voting against the ballot proposal were Supervisor Earl Teeples and trustees Fred Lichtman and David Stader.

William Hatton spoke for the audience in opposition to the referendum.

THE REFERENDUM will provide township residents the opportunity to vote on two advisory questions:

1. "Do you favor immediate legislative action to place a moratorium on any more court-ordered bussing of school children?" and
2. "Do you favor an amendment to the Constitution of the United States

to prohibit the forced bussing of school children?"

The three board members voting against the referendum stated they were opposed to massive bussing but felt the outcome of the vote is a foregone conclusion and the referendum a needless exercise in expression of popular opinion already known.

Hatton, a Democrat, argued that the referendum would be an embarrassment to the community and would strengthen the opinion of those who feel that the community is bigoted.

OPPERTBAUER noted

that a few months ago he introduced a resolution, which the board adopted, calling for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting forced bussing.

"Since that resolution was passed, the controversy over forced bussing has matured. Polls taken have clearly shown that even inner city blacks, who were supposed to benefit from these sociological experiments, are not much more enthusiastic about forced bussing than other persons."

Oppertbauer blamed the four U.S. Democratic senators campaigning for president for defeating the proposal in-

troduced by Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) for a constitutional amendment banning bussing.

He also blamed Michigan House Speaker William Ryan (D-Detroit) for killing in committee a resolution asking for a bussing referendum to be placed on the ballot state-wide on May 16.

"Several states throughout the U.S. have placed various advisory referendums on the

ballot to give their citizens a chance to speak on this issue, which has repeatedly been called the most important social issue of our times.

"The message received from the results in the State of Florida, and the damage it did to the candidacies of these same senators who defeated Sen. Griffin's anti-forced bussing proposal, is now history."

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Village May File Suit To Delay Incorporation

The Village of Quakertown wants to stop Farmington Township from conducting a cityhood election on May 16.

The village council March 23 authorized its attorney, Howard Bond, to begin litigation aimed at keeping Quakertown out of the cityhood vote.

Monday night, the Farmington Township Board instructed its attorney to enter the lawsuit immediately to defend the township's position of keeping in Quakertown if the suit is started.

THE FIRST step will be to ask Oakland County Circuit Court for a restraining order preventing the May 16 election until the courts decide whether Quakertown can be excluded from the incorporation.

The lawsuit will be filed against the State Boundary

Commission which ruled against Quakertown being excluded and called for a May 16 election on the question of forming a home-ruling city which would include Quakertown, Wood Creek Farms Village and the entire township.

Co-counsel with Bond will be Stanley Thorpe of Quakertown, an attorney who recently retired from General Motors and has now joined a law firm on a part-time basis.

The request for a restraining order will be filed shortly after Thorpe returns from a trip, says Bond, probably within a week.

THE COUNCIL voted to authorize the lawsuit at the end of a village hearing held in the meeting room of Alexander Hamilton International in Quakertown. Although some village

residents spoke up in favor of incorporating with the township, the vast majority reportedly voiced support of filing a lawsuit to keep the village out.

Under state law, the Boundary Commission has authority to alter boundaries when cityhood is petitioned for, providing incorporation is the procedure used.

When the commission held hearings in Farmington Township last fall, Quakertown asked to be excluded from the incorporation so it could go on its own as a fifth-class city.

After weighing the request, the commission denied exclusion because it felt the village could not sufficiently provide city services and because Quakertown would be left as an "island" surrounded by the City of Farmington and

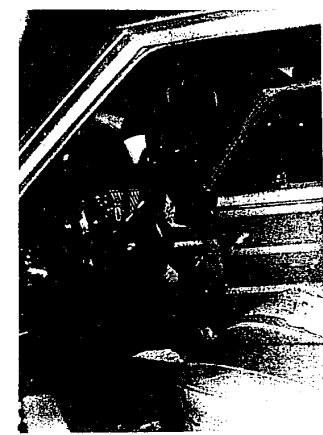
the proposed City of Farmington Hills.

THE STATE Supreme Court has ruled it is proper to join two villages and a township into a new city through the process of incorporation.

At issue in the lawsuit is whether the commission properly used its authority under incorporation when it refused to exclude Quakertown from the cityhood question.

Robert McConnell of Future Farmington Association, petitioner for incorporation, says he believes the Supreme Court ruled the May 16 election was legal and a lower court would be unable to undermine that decision.

Thorpe, a long-time village resident, was one of the leaders in the original move to incorporate Quakertown into a village.



MOTORIST SHOT — Fredrick Sweet, 46, of 16951 Maryland, Southfield, was shot about 2 a.m. March 26 while driving eastbound on I-696 near Orchard Ridge Campus. Sweet drove to Biff's restaurant at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake where police located him. He was taken to Botsford General Hospital where he is in critical condition. Farmington Township police are investigating whether he was shot by a passing motorist or a sniper from the overhead bridge or apartments nearby. There were broken glass and blood stains in Sweet's car.

Clark Death Ruled Accidental Monday By Coroner Jury

By EMORY DANIELS

A Jackson County coroner's jury ruled late Monday afternoon that the cause of death of Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington Township physician, was accidental.

The inquest lasted four hours. Testimony was taken from a number of witnesses, including four prisoners who saw Clark fall. Only prisoners had witnessed the fall; the guard for that area of the prison was elsewhere at the time of the incident.

The six-man coroner's jury deliberated about 45 minutes before ruling that the incident was accidental. A substitute was made when one jury member left at noon and was replaced by a reporter for the Jackson Citizen - Patriot.

ALL JURORS agreed there were no "sinister forces" involved, but there was some conflict over a letter the doctor had sent his wife. The doctor had written that he had been threatened by a large, red-headed prisoner and "feared for his life." The red-headed prisoner's cell, Clark's attorney reports, was directly in front of the spot where Clark went over the railing.

The coroner's jury, which usually contains the same members each time it meets, had been critical in the past of the railings because they felt some one might fall through them one day.

Arrangements are being made for Clark to be buried Tuesday (March 28) in the prison cemetery. His wife, Mrs. Violet Clark, said he would have wished to be buried there since he spent the last years of his life in Jackson.

Clark died the morning of March 23 after falling about 34 feet from the fifth floor prison gallery of Jackson State Prison to the concrete floor below.

State Police speculated that Clark fainted and slipped underneath the safety guard rail. He had been under medication for a bleeding ulcer and had previous fainting spells while at Jackson, says Clark's attorney, James E. Wells of Southfield.

WELLS SAYS Clark has been suffering from ulcers for at least two years and had fainting seizures in Wayne County Jail last summer while awaiting trial for the death

Mrs. Hannah Bowerbank of Detroit, a former office aide for Clark.

Clark had been convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two to 15 years in prison for the death of Mrs. Grace Neil of Livonia. He was coming up for parole when Detroit police charged him with first degree murder in the death of Mrs. Bowerbank.

Clark was housed in Wayne County Jail while awaiting trial and fainted a couple of times while in that prison, adds Wells.

When the trial started, Clark pleaded guilty to manslaughter in open court against the advice of his attorney and was returned to prison. Conditions in Wayne County Jail were so bad, Clark said then, that he'd rather plead guilty to get out of the county jail and return to Jackson where he felt safer. Wells criticized prison officials Friday for allowing Clark to be housed on the fourth gallery. Epileptic persons, prisoners given to fainting or those under medication, Wells added, are kept on the first floor where Clark should have been housed.

Wells added he felt state

prison officials were negligent but that the state was immune from prosecution unless it granted consent.

CLARK HAD been eligible for parole again about a month from now and was looking forward to moving to British Ghana where he was taken to teach at a college established there by the Ba'hai faith.

Clark had a PhD, as well as an M.D. in chemistry and once taught both chemistry and physics while imprisoned in Jackson. Both Clark and his wife Violet are members of the Ba'hai faith.

The former physician had once filed a complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission that he was being harassed by police because of his religious beliefs.

"My unorthodox religious beliefs and liberal philosophy have been unpopular in the small, conservative community in which I practice."

In 1962, Clark had plans of returning to Ghana with his wife to practice medicine. Mrs. Clark had done her doctoral dissertation on African students living in the U.S.

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DR. RONALD E. CLARK
Dies in Prison