

Franklin Knolls News

By EARL TRIBLES
Mrs. Elizabeth Tardy of Brarcrest Knoll is attending the convention of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City. Leaving here last Friday, she will be there for ten days.

The Carl Syppeles has returned from Upper Michigan, where they spent the week end.

The Brostoffs have returned from a three-week stay in the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. While there they made arrangements for moving to California on June 1.

The Ken Brands returned to the Knolls just in time for the big snow. After two weeks in Florida, they are busy shoveling walks, making snow men and breaking ice off the eaves.

The Nessels are back from two weeks in Florida and are the Supersteins. Both wish they could have stayed until the snow left.

The Bert Schilms are back from a two-week business trip to California.

An election of officers was held in Subdivision No. 3 recently. Dale Winnie of Cottonwood was elected president. Others elected were: Arnold Anderson, Cornwall Court; vice president; Sue Brooks, S. Tratham Court, secretary; and Floyd Cosmi, Cornwall Court, treasurer.

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Democratic Club Officers Elected



THOMAS FORD HOULT
Thomas Ford Hoult, Ph. D., of 31290 Grand River Cut-Off, was elected president of the Farmington Democratic Club at its annual meeting on February 15, at the Clarenceville Fire Hall.
Other officers elected were: W. A. Nelson, vice president; Mrs. Charles Fellows, secretary; Mrs. Walter Johnson, treasurer; Jack Habermehl, auditor; and Mrs. Kornet, publicity director.
Hoult, who was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received his A. B. degree from the University of Illinois; his master of Arts at Whittier College, Whittier, California; and his Ph. D. diploma at the University of Southern California.
He is currently professor of sociology at Wayne University. He is married and the father of one child.
The Farmington Democratic Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Clarenceville Fire Hall. The public is invited to attend.

School System Operation Costly, Farmington School District Operating Expenses Being Kept At Minimum

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles to provide residents of the Farmington Public School District with a better understanding of the problems which lie ahead in providing adequate educational facilities for youngsters of the area. Statistics and informational material have been provided by the school administrative staff. The series is designed to present an insight into the school problem and place an extra strain on the district. The polls to vote on a proposed bond issue to raise \$2 million for the construction of additional schools in the district.

Education is expensive. During the current school year approximately \$1,400,000 will be spent to operate and maintain schools in the Farmington Public School District. Based on an approximate school enrollment this year of 4,500, the cost of educating each student will be \$311.11.

Money for the operation of the School District comes primarily from two sources. Property taxes provide approximately \$500,000 to defray operational costs while approximately \$760,000 is provided from grants, including the state primary fund, state aid, and the sales tax.

To many, the amount of money spent to operate the Farmington School System and educate local children may seem high. The fact is, however, that it is low compared to the amounts spent by other school systems in the area.

Farmington schools are operated on a tax rate of 13.13 mills per \$1,000 evaluation of property. Many school systems around the state and in this vicinity, including Plymouth, Dearborn, Grosse Pointe, Birmingham, Detroit, Rochester and Ann Arbor, are operating on a tax rate of between 15 and 18 mills.

A slight increase was made in the operating millage tax rate for the 1955-56 school year. The operating tax rate for the 1954-55 school year was 12.96 mills as compared to 13.13 for the current year, or an increase of .77 mills. The increase was necessary. School Board members determined to adequately supply and staff the new schools in the District and to increase the salary schedule for teachers and maintenance workers in the school system. Teachers and hourly-rated school workers' salaries were brought into closer accord with salaries being paid in other school systems of comparable size.

School administrators and the School Board encounter many problems in school operation because they must operate on somewhat of a fixed budget. Enrollment for the school year is established approximately one month after school starts and is used

throughout the year for purposes of grants and state assistance. Students enrolling after that date are not considered for purposes of aid and place an extra strain on the school system. The burden is extremely heavy in districts such as Farmington, where heavy new enrollment continues throughout the school year. Since the beginning of the current school year the Farmington public school system has experienced an enrollment increase of 115 pupils.

It is the policy of the Farmington School Board and local school administrators to maintain the Farmington schools at the lowest possible operating costs. Knowing that additional taxes would be necessary again and again to construct more schools in the district, they have established the policy in hopes of keeping the tax burden to individual taxpayers in the district at a minimum.

The fact that Farmington's tax and township individual taxes are high may be directly attributed to the fact that Farmington's tax base is low.

The assessed valuation of Farmington City and Township, as equalized, is approximately \$34,000,000. This, divided by an enrollment of approximately 4,500 students, results in an average assessed valuation as equalized of less than \$8,000 per pupil. This situation exists because of a deficiency in commercial and industrial properties in Farmington.

Valuation per pupil of most other systems in the Detroit metropolitan area, where adequate commerce and industry exists, is almost double that of Farmington's.

M.S.U. Alumni Club Sets Dinner-Dance For Mar. 10

The Northwest Suburban Alumni Club of Michigan State University will hold a dinner-dance at the Hawthorne Valley Club on March 19 at 7 p.m. All alumni of the Farmington, Northville, Plymouth and Livonia areas are invited to attend.

Robert Tall, of the university, will be on hand to show a movie of Michigan State's recent Rose Bowl game and to narrate on the picture.

Music for the dance will be provided by Pete Grasel's band.

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