

Two Taking Basic At Fort Carson

Pvt. Adam Denny, 22, of Farmington and Pfc. Gerald L. Barretto, 17, of Livonia, are now receiving basic infantry training with the Eighth Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado, an Army release disclosed this week.

Denny is training with the division's Eighth Quartermaster Company and Barretto is with Battery "A" of the division's 23rd Airborne Artillery Battalion. Both units are being prepared to move to Europe next fall as part of Operation Gyroscope.

Denny, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Denny of 21335 Jacksonville Street, entered the Army last month. He attended Farmington High School. Barretto is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Barretto of 16849 Rouge way and attended school in Utica.

Michigan taxes are considered by industry to be the country's fairest. Only in Michigan does a manufacturer have the option of basing his personal property tax either on inventory value at the end of the year or on average inventory value throughout the year.

BOND ISSUE SUMMARY

Construction Of 3 Elementary Schools, Junior High Proposed, No Increase In School Taxes Expected

Editor's Note: This is the sixth in a series of articles to provide understanding of the problem of providing adequate educational facilities for youngsters of the area. Statistics and informational material has been provided by members of the school administrative staff. The series is designed to present the facts as they are, and to allow the public to make an informed decision prior to March 26, when voters will go to the polls to vote on a proposed bond issue to raise \$2 million for construction of new schools in the district.

Monday, March 26, the qualified voters of the Farmington Public School District, will go to the polls to express their opinions by ballot for or against a proposed \$2 million bond issue for the construction of additional educational facilities in the district.

All voters will be cast at the Farmington Junior High School gymnasium - on Thomas Street.

Even those persons living outside Farmington and Township, in West Bloomfield and Novi, Townships and the City of Livonia, who are within the boundaries of the Farmington School District will cast their ballots at the one school polling place. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Only those persons who are registered and who are taxpayers in the school district will be qualified to vote. A vote by general electors, non-taxpayers, will not be needed as unlimited bonds will be sold if the bond issue passes. No vote on a set millage tax rate is decided on by all voters, is needed when unlimited bonds are sold.

This is the first time that voter approval has been asked for the sale of unlimited bonds. Previous Farmington school bond issue have been for the sale of limited bonds requiring a vote by taxpayers on the issue itself and a vote by all electors on a set millage tax rate.

During the past five weeks in this series of articles we have attempted to outline pertinent details about the school system relative to the bond issue question to be voted on.

SUMMARY

The first article in the series dealt with the enrollment problem from 1946 to 1955 and with 1960 projected enrollment as anticipated by school officials. In 1946 the enrollment in the Farmington Public Schools was 1,450. By 1951 this figure had swollen to 2,464 and by the beginning of the current school year to 4,498.

* Between September of 1955 and the last of January of this year 110 students had been added. It was conservatively estimated that by the beginning of the next school year, 1956-57, total enrollment will increase to over 5,100. By 1960 it is anticipated that enrollment in the Farmington school system will be over 6,000.

In the second article, Farmington School system's operating costs were discussed at length. It was shown how the enormous sum of nearly \$1,400,000 will be disbursed in the current school year alone for operation and maintenance of schools and the purchase of equipment.

A comparison was made to show how Farmington with a school operating tax rate of \$13.22 per \$1,000 assessed valuation is being maintained at a much lower tax rate per \$1,000 valuation than many other neighboring school districts.

Also pointed out was the fact that the Farmington system has a low tax base of less than \$8,000 per pupil while other systems with good commercial and industrial developments have tax bases two and three times this high per pupil. This, it was attributed, was the reason why individual taxes are as high as they are in Farmington.

The third article in this series relative to the proposed bond issue dealt with present school facilities already overcrowded and what could be expected for the next school year.

It was shown that due to critical classroom shortages already existing, students in grades one and two and some in grades three and four would have to be placed on half-day sessions by the beginning of the next school year even with passage of the proposed bond issue. Schools to be constructed from money provided by the bond issue would be ready for occupancy until 1957.

Passage of the bond issue would result in a change in the school system's structure. It would include, with construction of three elementary schools and a junior high proposed, the ninth grade would then be added to the seventh and eighth grades and the high school left to accommodate tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. The three elementary schools would provide approximately 400 additional rooms permitting all

elementary grades to be placed on full day schedules again.

In article number four school taxes were discussed. It was attempted to show how, despite the fact that Farmington has a very low tax base, school taxes in the past have been kept at a minimum.

School taxes for 1955 were \$23.24 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Based on an estimated total state equalized valuation for the City and Township of Farmington in 1955 of \$43,714,917, it was indicated that by virtue of reduced millage rates on existing bond issues taxes could be cut by \$4.38 per \$1,000 valuation, excluding the \$2 million bond issue.

It was also shown that heavy school taxes in 1955 were not due to high millage rates but rather due to assessed valuations being determined too low thus being more than doubled when equalized by the state. The result was that property assessed for \$4,000 in Farmington in 1955 had a state equalized valuation of over \$8,000. This made school taxes in 1955 on a home assessed at \$4,000 over \$200 as state equalized valuations had to be used in determining school taxes.

Last week's article was concerned with what would be provided with the \$2 million bond issue if passed and what effect the added bond issue would have on individual taxes. As was mentioned earlier the construction and equipping of three new elementary schools and a junior high school is proposed. It was anticipated that these projects would cost \$1,980,000 with the remaining \$40,000 to be placed in a revolving site fund, already established, for the purchase of additional school sites as needed.

Local Government Study Kit Available

A study kit on Michigan local government has just been published by the University of Michigan Press.

Edited by Robert H. Pealy of the Institute of Public Administration, the kit was prepared by the research staff of the Institute's Bureau of Government.

The content includes charts of various forms of city government: weak-mayor government, illustrated by Ann Arbor; strong-mayor government, represented by Dearborn; commission government, Battle Creek; council-manager government, Ypsilanti.

There are also charts of village government, township government, county government, the judiciary and the property tax process. An information section explains the charts.

W. Boys Wins Varsity Letter At Mercersburg

William W. Boys, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Boys of 33650 Hillcrest Drive, Farmington, was awarded an "M" in varsity wrestling at the Mercersburg Academy recently, academy officials disclosed this week.

Dr. Charles S. Tippetts, headmaster of the academy, presided at an assembly and gave awards to a large number of students of the school for participation in winter term athletics.

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