

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

A Few More Statistics . . .

have been added to the growing list of facts and figures on the alarming McGee Hill story. The statistics are contained in another accident report, another casualty list and another hospital record.

But, unfortunately, the statistics don't tell the real story. They are merely cold, hard facts without feeling or without character. They don't tell about the shock, the pain and the concern that goes on long after the figures have been added to the daily report. Yet statistics do play an important part in our traffic safety programs.

McGee Hill, on North Farmington Road, has a record of facts and figures which goes back further than we like to remember. As early as 1941, the Enterprise urged that something be done to correct this traffic hazard. We would hesitate to guess how many times the subject has been discussed during the past 15 years, but it has been frequent, to say the least.

In defense of the City, numerous efforts have been made to reduce the hazard. Only recently the City Manager ordered additional signs and safety devices to be installed along the hill and at the approaches to the narrow bridge. As in the past, these facilities may help, but will not eliminate the problem. It is recognized, of course, that accidents can and will happen anywhere and at anytime, but there is no percentage in inviting them.

The alarming McGee Hill story will not reach a happy ending until positive action is taken to eliminate the existing conditions, namely the reduction of the grade, the partial cutting of the curve and the erection of an adequate bridge. This will take money and it will take a cooperative effort. But it is a small price to pay for the pain and suffering which will continue to take place as long as the present hazard exists.

A Lot Of Money . . .

is going to be released in the Farmington area during the next month . . . \$28,000, to be exact, and we hope that you are going to have a part in raising it.

That may sound a little bit strange, our asking you to shell out some of your hard earned cash, but we hope you won't slam the door before we've had a chance to explain why. In the first place, \$28,000 spread over the entire population of Farmington City and Township isn't very much if everyone will do their part.

Now why should you do your part? The \$28,000 we're talking about is the quota for the 1956 Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest. It is money that is urgently needed to carry on the many local, county and state health, welfare and recreation agencies which are serving you and your community. Getting a little closer to home, it is money urgently needed to finance the programs of the Farmington Boy Scouts, Visiting Nurse Committee, Big Brothers, Farmington Area Recreation Commission and Clarenceville Recreation Commission.

These local agencies are doing a job for you. That's why it is so important that you give at least a portion of your contribution at home. The citizens of the Farmington community have a responsibility to take care of their own. These Farmington area agencies are depending upon you, don't let them down!

The goal has been set, the course is clear, let's put this 1956 drive over the top. How about it, will you help?

The Voters Of Michigan . . .

may have cause to wonder at times just whom Governor Williams is running against. Is it Detroit's Mayor Albert Cobo or State Highway Commissioner Charles Ziegler?

Throughout the current campaign, Governor Williams has repeatedly leveled his most personal attacks on Ziegler, who isn't even a candidate in this election. The voters of Michigan are vitally interested in their future highway program. But they want constructive proposals, not warmed over charges.

It is the responsibility of the voter to try and reach a clear and factual decision as to which candidate he wants to support. In our opinion, he deserves a chance to do just that. The candidates of all political parties owe that much to the people who must render the final and all-important answer.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI — More opposition to the proposed race track in Novi Township developed this week as the Novi Democratic Club asked that the Township Zoning Board table a request for rezoning the proposed site until a vote can be held.

The zoning board is scheduled to hold a public hearing October 19 on a request that the site lying north of Grand River between Meadowbrook and Sibley Roads be rezoned from M-1 (light industry) to M-3 (heavy industry) to permit establishment of the track.

Novi Township Supervisor Frazer Staman had said earlier that the township could conceivably be sued if it refused to grant permission for the track since some \$50,000 has already been spent developing the site. President Herbert Koster of the Democratic Club has indicated that he feels the Township would not risk a damage suit by refusing to rezone the land. He believes the statute of limitations would invalidate such a suit.

—The Novi News

SOUTHFIELD — An estimated 3,000 Southfield and Bloomfield home owners jammed into the Southfield High School auditorium to voice their opposition to the proposed new freeway through the area in which they live.

Numerous home owners present indicated that they had no objection to a freeway being built, but wanted it out of their territory, suggesting a route further to the west. George M. Foster, a chief deputy to State Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziegler, not present at the meeting, emphasized to the group that building a new route for a freeway had not yet been established. He indicated that three or four more routes were being considered and would have the final pointing of the route would probably not be known until the spring of 1957.

—The Four Corners Press

PLYMOUTH — Last Monday night taxpayers of the Plymouth School District turned down a proposition which would have given the Board of Education the discretion to use portions of \$3,000,000 in bond money for school additions rather than for building a new school which money from the bond issue was earmarked for. The proposition was rejected by a vote of 1,121 to 1,120.

This was the largest number of electors ever to vote in a school election in the history of Plymouth School District, it was indicated. The large turnout of voters was termed as highly unusual since only 682 turned out to cast ballots last year when the \$3,000,000 bond issue was approved.

—The Plymouth Mail

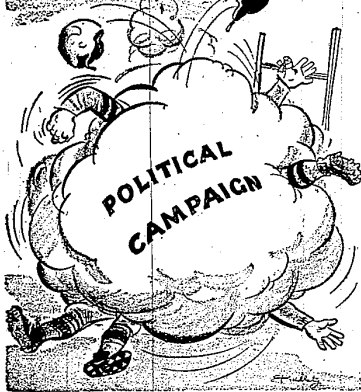
ROMEO — Approval of a 50-year charter for a Romeo Community Building authority to administer the center offered by W. F. Sheetz was given last Monday night by the Romeo Village Council. The authority will have the power, among others, to acquire and dispose of property, issue revenue bonds and enter into necessary contracts. It was pointed out that the organization can qualify as a beneficiary of the forthcoming Macomb County United Fund drive. It also indicated that contributions could be used for construction costs, but that the building should prove to be self-sustaining after that.

—The Romeo Observer Press

HOLLY — Two zoning problems presented to the Holly Village Council at its last meeting were tabled until such time as a planning commission can be appointed. Provisions of the village's zoning ordinance called for a planning commission of five members to take action on matters such as these prior to being heard by the Council had been ignored in the past. Formerly the council served as its own board of appeals in granting or rejecting changes in zoning.

—Herald Advertiser

All-American Game?



FALL "COLOR TOURS" are in order as autumn brings glorious hues to trees and shrubs throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

So says Robert Furlong, director of the State Tourist Council. Plugging for leisurely drives through areas where color reigns as King, Furlong urges Michigan residents to see their state at its best.

To help you plan a tour at exactly the time colors are at their height, the council offers a tailored information service. Send a self-addressed post card to the tourist office at Lansing stating where you plan to travel in Michigan. Just before the color is at its peak in the area you name, the council will mail your card to you saying "now is the time."

And best of all—the whole majestic show is free.

The autumn season also gives the Tourist Council a breathing period to evaluate last summer's tourist business.

Figures now coming in indicate that this was a "pretty good" tourist year—although it did not reach pre-season expectations. Bad weather played a major role in limiting tourist spending. "Tourist" traffic through Michigan was good, but people kept moving around in search of better weather," Furlong comments. In all, we had four inches more rainfall this summer.

Mackinac Bridge construction brought people flocking to the straits to see the new structure. Traffic between the two peninsulas was up one and one-half per cent over last year.

Until all figures are in, best "guessimates" by the Council are: Summer "tourist business" won't reach the \$800 million level predicted last spring. But it won't fall below the \$600 million mark set last year.

THE BIG JOB handled by the "little people" in Michigan's state government is being done well, according to C. J. Hess, deputy civil service director.

While politicians are making



A CITIZEN'S GREAT POWER
A candidate for Governor in a Southern state recently won the nomination of his party—and virtually certain election—with a vote total that was considerably less than half of the total legal voters in the state. And the number of legal voters was less than half the total eligible voters. So the Governor will serve as the choice of a comparatively small percentage of the state's citizenry.

If his political principles and are not those of the non-voting 75 per cent of the citizenry, they will not be entitled to complain. By not voting they forfeited (1) the right of the elector, (2) the right to self-government, and (3) the right to complain about government they don't like. This situation is typical of the apathy of a big percentage of the American citizenry. In the nation as a whole and counting all political elections—local, state and national—an average of only about 40 per cent of the voters vote regularly.

Four Out of Ten
The Presidential election of 1932 set an all-time record when not quite 60 per cent of the adult citizens voted. However, in the average city block of ten homes this would mean that four homes, or four families, didn't appreciate the value of their prosperity sufficiently to support the candidates and the issues and then vote. Lack of voting means just that—for our freedom and our economic progress in America depends on the kind of government we have.

What causes the apathy of our American citizens toward politics and voting? There are many causes. The most prevalent has been a lack of understanding of the principles of the American system, which makes it tick. It is the indispensable role of the citizen in the unique American system of government. Another cause, of course, is the failure of so many citizens to assess the true value of individual freedom. They have never lived under the regimentation of a Socialist government or in a dictatorship or police state. And they have not bothered to investigate what life is like under such conditions.

Vote Doesn't Count
Millions of citizens do not vote because they feel that their individual vote would be insignificant in the total, would not change the outcome—so why bother? This attitude continues to be widespread in spite of the dramatic instances of close votes in recent years. For instance the 1952 presidential vote in Kentucky was 493,729 for Stevenson; 493,029 for Eisenhower. Just 700 votes decided Kentucky's choice for President of the United States. Seven hundred people who felt their vote would be insignificant and didn't vote could have changed an important political decision of the Kentucky "electorate."

The 1952 presidential vote in Tennessee was 446,147 for Eisenhower; 443,710 for Stevenson. Just 2,437 votes decided the issue. That's less than one single vote for each voting precinct in Tennessee. All over America there are thousands of such close votes.

A UNIQUE MICHIGAN NEWS PAPER is served up each Friday to perhaps the most eager "captionists" in the state.

(Continued on Page 6C)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (October 22, 1931)

Property Valuations
Farmington City and Township property-owners are now awaiting announcement of the action of the State Tax Commission following heavy protests which they made in a hearing Monday against the commission's big increases in assessments. It will be at least two weeks, however, before the local governmental bodies will know how much of a total valuation increase the State has placed on the City and Township. Individual property owners will not know how much their taxes have been increased until they receive their tax statements about two months from now, it was pointed out. It has been estimated that an average raise in valuation from 30 to 50 per cent has been placed on the City and a raise of 15 to 30 per cent on the valuation of the Township.

School Lunches
Chief topic at a special meeting of the Farmington PTA next Tuesday afternoon will be the school lunch program. Before discontinuance of the Home Economics department in the school, that school unit alternating with private individuals living near the school used to serve lunches to children from outlying districts and those in the city during inclement weather. At present there are no means provided for serving a noon meal at the school. It is hoped that a plan to serve hot soup and and cocoa with charges to cover cost only can be worked out.

TEN YEARS AGO (October 24, 1946)

School Building
Consideration is now being given to the possibility of extending the addition to be built adjacent to the gymnasium at the school on Thomas Street by the Farmington School Board. The addition of two classrooms was originally proposed. Since there is already a need for more classrooms than this, however, it is the feeling of the Board that it would be much more economical to make the addition larger now than to add on to this or some other school unit next year.

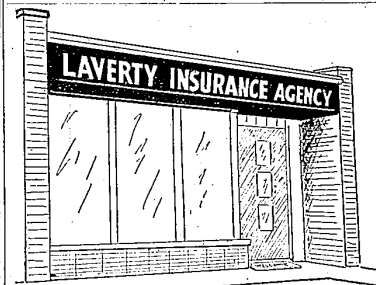
Registrations
Registration figures have reached a new high in the City and Township of Farmington, according to a complete check of the registration books made this week. Despite the fact that a complete re-registration was held in the City, the present registration is just about as high as in the past, with 770 names on the registration books. Total registrations in the Township now stands at 3,852.

FIVE YEARS AGO (October 25, 1951)

Police Moving
Work is expected to begin the first part of next week on the moving of the City Police Department from the city hall into quarters at the fire hall building. Final details on the remodeling of the building are expected to be completed sometime next week. The building will house the police department, municipal building and jail cells for overnight lockup.

Fire Station Site
Township Supervisor Ernest Blanchard disclosed Tuesday that a site for a fire station in the southeast portion of the Township has now been secured. It is located on Wheeler Street one block east of Middlebrook and a half block north of Grand River, he indicated. The property is being donated to the Township for use as a fire station by Gus Neitz, owner of Duffy's Supply Company.

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IT'S HANDY
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