

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

The Difficulties . . .

being encountered by the Farmington School Board in securing adequate classroom sites points up a very serious question, which must eventually be resolved. It has been suggested on numerous occasions that parcels of land be earmarked or set aside for future school building expansion. This seems to us to be a logical and progressive procedure. However, several attorneys have expressed the opinion that this is illegal since it amounts to confiscation of private property without due course of law. Thus the school board is placed in the position of endless negotiation or as a last resort, costly condemnation.

This hardly seems necessary in view of the fact that the School Board, as a public governmental agency, is charged with the responsibility of expending taxpayers money in order to provide adequate classroom facilities. This does not mean that private property holders should be taken advantage of, but it does mean that some legal means should be devised to meet the ever expanding needs of the District without continual loss of valuable time and money.

In view of the changes, during the past few years, in school transportation laws, it has become necessary to place school buildings within walking distance of concentrated areas. This is becoming increasingly important from a financial standpoint, since it has a direct bearing on the year to year operation of the School District.

We respect the legal opinions that have been expressed in connection with this problem. As a result it becomes increasingly apparent that a high degree of cooperation is going to have to be developed and maintained between the various units of government. The School Board should be kept informed by the Township Board and the City Council of land developments and future planning. Every effort should be made to encourage subdividers of large parcels of land to voluntarily set aside sites for future school needs. Non-committed municipally owned land should be offered to the School District for classroom facilities at the current market value.

In our opinion these cooperative steps are essential to the best interests of the entire community.

In The Second Report . . .

issued by the Oakland County Townships United Fund organization last week, Farmington is listed as eleventh out of 11 communities reporting. No matter how you look at it . . . this is the bottom of the heap.

We would be amiss, however, if we failed to mention that Farmington has the largest quota of the 13 communities participating in the Oakland County Townships group. None-the-less the Farmington collections to date are far below the average. This comparison with our neighbors is both enlightening and challenging. It shows above all else that everyone is going to have to pitch in, if Farmington is to be pulled out of the hole.

Before this issue finally goes to press, we will have a more up-to-date report on the progress of the campaign. We sincerely hope that it reflects the will and the enthusiasm which we know the citizens of Farmington possess. A lot of hard work is being put forth in this campaign by a comparatively few people. But they can do the job, if they get the kind of support they need and deserve.

In our opinion the very existence of the Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest organization depends on the outcome of this campaign. The various local Community Chest organizations have joined together in this united effort as a convenience to the public and as a means of survival. They can not hope to continue serving the increased population without the wholehearted support of the community.

Call it what you may . . . community spirit, civic responsibility or just plain pride, it's on the block right now. We can make it a living example or a fading dream. The choice is strictly ours!

The Noise . . .

of another political campaign is gradually fading into history. For the most part the final decision has been recorded and candidates as well as voters are enjoying a welcome rest from the tension and excitement of the past few months.

We only hope that the campaign is really over and politics has faded along with the shouts and the groans. The people have made their decision and they are interested in action now, not words.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

BIRMINGHAM — A plan to build a six-year high school here was revealed last week in a progress report issued by Birmingham Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland.

Both junior highs are filled to capacity and the senior high school will exceed 2000 students by 1960, Ireland said in his report to a joint meeting of the citizens committee and the board of education.

It was indicated that the six-year school proposed could handle students from grades 7 through 12 until such time as a third junior high was needed, and then the school could be easily swung over as a second high school. Without making allowances for future growth, it was pointed out, there will be 2,500 to 2,600 youngsters progressing into the junior high grades and the present two junior highs can handle only 2,000.

In the progress report, Ireland said that 57 classrooms had been occupied or were put under construction since the \$54 million bond issue was passed in March of 1955.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

SOUTHFIELD—The court suit by Southfield Township against owners of the Aggas drainage on Southfield Road between 12 and 13 Mile Roads has been continued, with November 27 set as the next trial date. In the meantime, Southfield officials and officials from the Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish Authority are working together with the dump operators to devise an arrangement whereby the Authority could take over the dump until all filled in and then return it to the original owners.

As such agreement can be reached by November 27, the decision as to further use and action concerning the dump will rest with the court.

—The Four Corners Press

PLYMOUTH — A Diabetic Detection week program with goal of testing all of Plymouth's public and parochial school children and between 2,000 and 4,000 adults will open here November 11 under the sponsorship of the Lion Club. If diabetes is found, the individual will be immediately notified and urged to consult his own physician. The program to be carried on through the schools and adults through local drug stores will be completely voluntary.

—The Plymouth Mail

WAYNE—Wayne's new library building, a joint effort of Wayne Village and Nankin Township came one step closer to reality last week when the Village Council opened bids for construction of the new building.

Eight firms submitted bids for the proposed new structure ranging from \$89,000 to \$117,000. Bids were turned over to the architect for study and review. A recommendation will be turned over to both the Village and the Township by the Library Board after the architect has completed his studies.

—The Wayne Dispatch

NOVI — Officials of Novi Raceway, Inc., announced that they will give further details of the proposed race track in Novi Township at a public meeting in the Novi Community Building November 8 at 8 p.m.

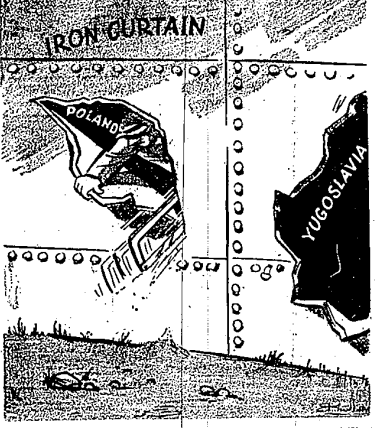
It will be our purpose to explain fully the proposed plans so that citizens of Novi Township will be able to evaluate the many benefits flowing from the track," they said.

In a separate report, backers of the race track said that the Township would realize at least \$1,000,000 in tax revenue from the track each year.

—The Novi News.



Who's Next?



A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH was accorded the State Liquor Control Commission at a recent Senate hearing held in Lansing.

Climaxing a three month investigation which drew charges of "politics" from Democratic leaders, the Republican staffed committee issued an interim report. It said the commission was a victim of "harmless and vicious" rumors.

Early Democratic outcries, calling the hearings a "GOP plot" to embarrass Governor Williams' controlled Liquor Commission, proved completely off base. Hearings, headed by Senator John Minnema (R-felones).

Present wording of the state Constitution states that a legislator must be "a qualified elector of the district he represents." This means he must be 21 years old.

The actual numerical age of "qualified" in participation of future actions which could lower the voting age to 18. In such an event, 18-year-olds would become qualified electors under the present constitutional provision and eligible to hold legislative seats.

The change in wording would set a permanent age limit of 21 for legislators, even if the voting age is lowered.

Both houses have the right to refuse to seat any of their elected members. This power is much broader than the proposed constitutional change.

However, when they exercise that power there is apt to be considerable controversy. It happened in 1954 when the Senate refused to seat Anthony J. Wilkowski, a Hamtramck Democrat. He was convicted 20 years earlier on a vote fraud charge. When the Republican Senate refused to seat him after his re-election in 1954, Democrats charged that the move was strictly political.

Legislators would no longer decide the question. The court conviction would automatically bar such a person from being elected. There could be no recurrence of the 1954 fight with overtones of "politics."

MICHIGAN'S CENSORSHIP law banning "obscene books" will soon be tested in court to determine its validity. According to opponents of the law, it is too vague to be properly enforced.

The current problem stems from a Detroit police department action banning the sale of certain paperback books from newsstands where they would be readily available to minors.

The present law reads that publication or sale of any book containing obscene, immoral, lewd or lascivious language tending to incite minors to violence or depraved or immoral acts is banned.

Much of the argument is contained in (Continued on Page 4C)

By Dr. George S. Kenna
ECONOMY - BUSINESS - POLITICAL - SOCIAL - PERSONAL
Bureau, Farmington

AMERICA—OPPORTUNITY UNLIMITED

There are publications being distributed throughout America—to millions of people—seeking to undermine respect for the business and industrial leadership of the nation. Regardless of the purpose behind such writings, they greatly aid the efforts of the Communists and Socialists to weaken and ultimately destroy our American system. A favorite claim of these propagandists is that people in the lower economic strata have not a chance, under American capitalism, to rise to the top.

Of course there are literally tens of thousands of life stories in the literature of American progress which refute such dishonest claims, but the propagandists hope, by repeating untruths over and over again, to overcome the truth. One of the most dramatic of all the success stories in 20th Century America concerns the life of the foremost symbol of American capitalism, Benjamin Franklin. Recently retired president and board chairman of one of America's biggest corporations, United States Steel.

From Humble Origin

The Ben Fairless story, in LIFE Magazine, offers three great values to America: (1) It once again exposes the dishonesty of the propaganda against American capitalism; (2) It inspires every boy and girl in America to unlimited achievement; and (3) It creates respect and admiration for the industrial leadership of America on which our continued economic progress is greatly dependent.

Ben Fairless was born 69 years ago in Pigeon Run, Ohio. "A town that had a dirt road, ash side walks and where frame houses were occupied by perhaps 200 citizens."

When Ben was two years old his mother was killed in an accident and thereafter he lived with an aunt and uncle. However, he lived close to his parents and their influence helped set the pattern of his life.

Mother's Influence

"My mother," he writes, "was a truly great woman. She had almost no education but her instincts were always right. She believed that everybody should work, that everybody should be honest, that no one should expect something for nothing." Young Ben did not mind work. Across the road lived "the first capitalist I ever knew"—Clark McClellan, a lumberman with a big house.

Ben, when he became school age, worked in the summers for McClellan: "I mowed the lawn, took care of his horses and plowed the ground of a farm . . . I was a hired man in overall at a cash salary of \$8 a month." In his first three years of high school he was the school janitor. "I got to the school building at 8 a.m., fired up the coal furnace and dusted the desks and chairs in the four classrooms. After school I swept the floors. I considered the job a great privilege even though the salary was only \$25 a year (not per month—per year.)"

Climbing the Ladder

"At the ripe old age of 17, with three years of high school behind me," writes Ben Fairless, "I became a teacher, with 17 pupils, on a salary of \$48." He was supposed to pay the janitor out of his salary, so he did the janitor work himself. He taught three years, and in the summers he made up his fourth year high school credits. By working summers and by borrowing \$250 from neighbor McClellan (the capitalist), Ben completed a college course in engineering, and went to work on the railroad with a construction gang.

His first job in the steel industry was "transit man" on a construction job building a steel plant—at \$75 a month. When the plant was built, the operations boss offered him a job. He took it. (Continued on Page 4C)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (November 12, 1931)

Save Trees

A committee including representatives of the State Highway Department, Detroit Edison Company and the Farmington Exchange Club is expected to meet this Friday to discuss means of saving several trees along Grand River near the City Park.

It had been reported that several hard maples and elm trees might possibly have to come out to permit the widening of Grand River. The Exchange Club immediately voiced an opinion that they would like to make every effort possible to save these trees. It is felt by many citizens of Farmington that the loss of the trees would be a sharp blow to the beauty of the City.

N. H. Power suggested that the Highway Department might be induced to do the widening on one side of the street only, preferably on the north side, thus saving most of the trees.

Unemployment Relief

Some unemployment relief is being provided as the result of the start on work for widening U. S. 16 from Farmington to Howell. Since it is required in the contract that local help be employed along the route, some additional employment will be provided for people in this area. The work is expected to continue through the winter. A total of eight teams and 18 men of the area have already been employed. It was indicated that 12 more teams and many more men will be provided with work on the route soon.

TEN YEARS AGO (November 14, 1946)

City Park

A discussion of the improvements recently completed at the Farmington City Park and the new improvements proposed was conducted by the City Commission Wednesday night.

The new bridge at the park is now completed except for a railing and a skating rink has been partially prepared. New trees were also planted recently by the Girl Scouts. A motion was passed to install lights at the skating rink. The possibility of providing a water supply near the picnic area was also discussed.

Jaycees Forming

A meeting of young men will be held November 14 at the Methodist Church for the purpose of forming a Farmington Chapter of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will be held to discuss and adopt a constitution for the chapter. The first informal meeting of the proposed group was held last week. Any young man between the ages of 21 and 35 has been invited to join, regardless of his occupation.

FIVE YEARS AGO (November 15, 1951)

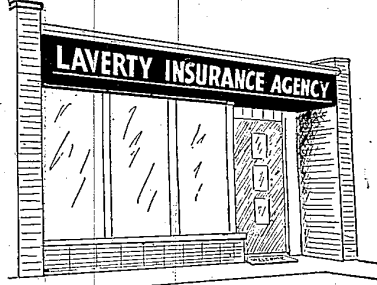
Zoning Ordinance

The Farmington Township Board unanimously approved a resolution adopting the Township Zoning Ordinance as filed by the zoning board.

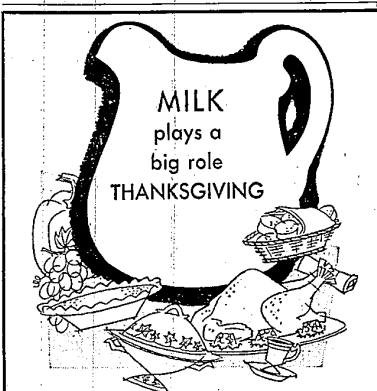
According to law, the ordinance will become effective 30 days after legal publication unless sufficient petitions calling for a referendum vote are filed within this time by residents.

New High School

Preliminary plans for the proposed new high school building to be erected on Shiawassee Road between Orchard Lake and Power Road were approved by the Farmington School Board Monday night. The building calls for 22 classrooms. At the present time, approximately \$800,000 has been set as the cost for construction of the building.



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