

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## It's Our Opinion:

### EDITORIALS:

### One Of Farmington's . . .

best known public officials received a just and deserving tribute from his friends and neighbors last Thursday evening. The official is O. E. Dunckel, Superintendent of the Farmington Public School District, who is retiring from the education field at the close of the present school year.

We have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Dunckel throughout most of the period that he has been associated with the Farmington schools. We can say without qualification that he has been the most cooperative and the most outstanding official we have had the honor to do business with. This is a statement that few editors can honestly put down in black and white. We do not mean for a moment that we have always been in complete agreement on all issues. It does mean, however, that he is one of those rare individuals who respects sincere differences of opinion and bears no malice toward those who disagree with him.

This important characteristic plus his firm dedication to the school district and the community has made him one of the most respected educators in the State of Michigan. We know this to be a fact, not just from our contacts in Farmington alone, but from comments made by officials in the State Department of Public Instruction and administrators in other school districts. During his tenure in Farmington he has spearheaded an educational program which has received outstanding recognition. He would disclaim these statements by diverting attention to the assistance he has received from the various Boards of Education and from his staff, his teachers and the general public. While the building of the Farmington school system has been no one man job, it took a leader and he provided that leadership.

We feel a personal loss at his leaving the school system because his friendship has meant a great deal to us in the trials and tribulations of trying to build and to serve. O. E. Dunckel has fixed his mark on the community . . . a mark of service that both he and the citizens of Farmington can be proud of.

### Township Officials . . .

advised citizens attending the Annual Meeting on March 20 that sufficient monies have been allocated in the 1957-'58 budget to employ four more police officers. The actual appropriation of these funds is, of course, a matter for the Township Board to handle.

It is our opinion that at least two more officers should be hired as soon as possible to provide full-time, 24-hour protection. Under this plan two men would be available for duty during each eight-hour shift. The additional two men could be selected at the same time or soon afterward to provide necessary relief and to permit the Chief of Police to devote more time to administrative duties.

This added protection is in keeping with the continued growth of the Township. Frequent requests are made for increased patrolling in various residential sections where traffic conditions are especially dangerous. More and more demands are being placed on the Department for patrolling of main roads due to the ever increasing flow of automobiles. Couple these services with the required check on bars and taverns and the normal routine of emergency calls and you get some idea of the volume of work there is to be done.

The present Police Department is doing an excellent job in spite of the existing handicaps. We are convinced that they will do an even better job for the residents of Farmington Township once these handicaps are eliminated.

### A New Bill . . .

has been introduced in the State Senate, which, if approved, will go a long way toward providing more adequate facilities for higher education in Michigan and save the taxpayers some money besides.

The present bill would authorize the State Board of Agriculture to issue revenue bonds to finance building construction at Michigan State University and to pledge as security the revenues collected from student fees. This plan would permit the construction of buildings now when they are needed and at a cost considerably lower than would be required 10 years from now. The Legislature would be asked to pay all operating expenses, thus releasing student fees for payment of the bond issues. This would represent a reduction in state assistance since no requests would be made for buildings.

This business-like plan makes sense to us and we hope that it will get prompt and favorable action.

## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**MOVIE**—An effort to designate the office of clerk as a full time position with a salary of \$5400 per year was voted down at the Annual Township meeting Saturday. An audience of nearly 50 citizens turned down the proposal along with a proposal for a pay boost from \$5400 to \$7000 for the office of supervisor.

The main reason given by opponents to the raises was the lack of funds. Staman answered charges that he had "deliberately refused" to raise his own salary for political reasons, stating that this was definitely not true. He stated that his reason for opposing any raise was simply because he did not feel that the budget could afford the extra expenditure.

With little discussion at the close of the meeting, citizens approved the 1957-'58 budget proposed and the treasurer's report.

—The Novi News

**SOUTHFIELD**—What appeared to be a sure victory early Tuesday for the proponents of incorporation and speedy future passage of a new Charter turned sour when an after-dawn count of Tuesday gave anti-city candidates controlling numbers on the Charter Commission. Prior to final count on paper ballots on the Charter Commission election, the count had five pro-incorporation candidates considered as good as seated on the commission.

A heavy number of votes for anti-city candidates in Precinct 7 along the fire hall on 15 Mile Road reversed this position, however, and moved two into the lead for seats on the commission. It now appears certain that an effort to draw up another proposed City Charter, a third, to be placed to a vote of the people in the Township before a June deadline already established, will be hopeless.

—The Four Corners Press

**PLYMOUTH**—An election to vote on millage for operation of the Plymouth Community School District will take place in the near future. If approved, it will allow for a pay increase for school personnel. The Board of Education met with representatives of the teachers' Monday to outline their proposal for teacher pay hikes. Final approval of the increase, however, depends upon the outcome of the millage election.

The plan for putting the 2 1/2 mill levy before the people would not raise the present millage rate of \$21.85 per \$1,000 of evaluation, it was pointed out. Instead, it theoretically would "transfer" 2 1/2 mills now being used to retire bonds, and to continue 2 more mills currently being used to operate schools.

It has not yet been decided whether to place the issue on the regular June School Election or on a ballot at a special election.

A two mill special operating levy approved by voters in 1952 expires this year making it necessary to re-vote if it is to be continued.

This 4 1/2 mills to be asked for, approved, will give the school enough operating money to finance pay increases for school personnel and to meet higher operating costs as well as provide for costs resulting from the opening of new schools, officials said.

—The Plymouth Mail

**ROMEO**—Contractors have now received specifications for bidding on construction of the new Community Hospital. Bids will be opened by hospital board members around May 1.

The facility to be constructed on M-33 (Van Dyke) is termed a model of its size in the country. When completed the hospital will serve 13 communities in the area. Architects estimate that the hospital will cost about \$450,000 which will include all equipment built-in to the structure.

Ground breaking for the new community hospital is scheduled for around June 1.

—The Romeo Observer Press

**WAYNE**—One in a series of meetings to present to the citizens of the state the problems it faces at present and the years ahead was held in Wayne, April 9. Sponsored jointly by the governor's office and other agencies of the state government, the problems the state faces in general finances and taxation, the schools, higher education and mental health were presented at the meeting.

Working with the governor's office and the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction are the state-supported institutions of higher education and the local school authorities in the area where the program is being presented.

It was pointed out at the meeting that concern was being given in discussion primarily to present facts about problems rather than specific solutions to these problems.

—The Wayne Dispatch

Start sooner, drive slower, live longer, be home for the holidays. —DRIVE SAFELY

## Keep Your Mind on Your Work!



**ANOTHER LOOK** At Michigan's justice of the peace machinery occurred when Francis E. Barron, a Howell attorney, recently charged that JP's often conduct a "racket system" to collect fines and costs. The justice of the peace operation has been controversial previously. Usually the issue involved is whether these elected officials are qualified to administer their jobs properly?

The new charges take a different tack. In a letter to State Bar Association President John W. Cummins, Barron took issue with the fact that some justices seem to make "too good" a living providing the duties of their office. Particularly singled out are two Oakland County JP's, Willis D. Lefurgy of Waterford Township and Allen C. Ingle of Farmington Township. Both these men earned more than \$53,000 from their share of fees last year.

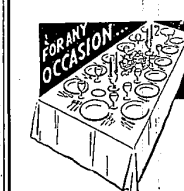
Lefurgy's case developed from charges made by the Automobile Club of Michigan that Waterford Township police are conducting a "speed trap" along the busy Dixie Highway between Pontiac and Flint. Last year's tickets produced more than \$100,000 income for Waterford Township. Lefurgy's share reached \$33,202.10, AAA says.

"In my opinion, such courts are not courts at all, but merely a racket system for collecting fines and costs for the benefit of the justice and the township," Barron wrote in his letter. This left the net move up to the State Bar. Officials of that group indicated that the change would be carefully considered in its committees.

Julie Harris, Edgar Guest, Governor Williams—these are a familiar names to Michigan residents. Today, stories of Michigan actresses, poets, politicians and others who achieved success in their chosen fields are available from the asking. Recognizing that

The unique project began two years ago on a small scale. At first the library collected information only on elected state officials. Then the staff turned its attention to Michigan authors. Now, under the direction of Mrs. Esther Langhin the scope of the collection is enlarged. Names are secured through mention in newspapers, from directories and from suggestions of people throughout the state.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**MR. CONGRESSMAN: HERE'S MY SHIRT!**  
While in Washington, D. C. recently Mr. Congressman Cannon drew a little news item on the front page of The Washington Post. The Post featured it, with special handling, so that many readers might see and read it. The two paragraph news story reported that Representative Clarence Cannon, Missouri Democrat and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, had received more than 100 shirts—right off the backs of tax-conscious citizens of Centralia, Mo., protesting the record-breaking Federal budget.

Although The Washington Post item did not report it, each of the shirts received by Mr. Cannon were accompanied by a letter which said, in part: Congressman Cannon, here's my shirt, too! I'm sending the Shirt Off My Back directly to you as a personal protest against the high budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. Your influence in reducing this budget will be appreciated and remembered.

**"WE RENOUNCE 'FEDERAL AID' "**

"The people of my community are alarmed by the prospect for an increased federal budget! We see it in a continuation of the trend toward a more costly and powerful central government. Like millions of other Americans we are strongly opposed to this trend . . . and frankly, we're tired of giving the Shirts Off Our Backs to support bigger government and unnecessary federal expenditures.

"We are convinced that there are tremendous possibilities for savings by adapting more of the Hoover Commission's recommendations and by eliminating other costly projects which are not essential to good government. We realize, too, that requests for Federal Aid for local projects makes budget reduction more difficult. So . . . along with this request we agree to quit asking for Federal Aid in exchange for Federal influence in reducing government expenses."

**WHOLE COMMUNITY BEHIND IT**

Since this was an interesting development in citizen participation in government, I looked a little further into the news story. I found that the "Shirts Off Our Backs" project had been conceived by The Freedom Club of Centralia, whose membership includes people of all walks of life and in all economic categories. On my desk as this column is being written is a photograph of the shirts.

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## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 7, 1932)  
Salary Cuts

Farmington Township's annual business meeting on Monday, like that of last year, proved to be almost entirely a heated debate on the question of salaries of officials and employees. The session was marked by much confusion without any positive action being taken. Following reading of a report on Township financial affairs, former supervisor Harry McCracken pointed out that election officials had received a 25 per cent cut in their pay and asked if the Township officials were willing to take the same cut. Township officials, including Supervisor Coe, promptly gave a negative reply, pointing out that there was no comparison between these people who work only one day for the Township and officials who are full-time employees. After considerably more debate, it was agreed that the matter of Township officials' salaries should be tabled for further study and the Township Board should decide whether any cuts should be made or not.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 10, 1947)  
City Election

Delos Hamlin will serve another two years as mayor of the City of Farmington following the outcome of Monday's election. A total of 472 ballots were cast, with Hamlin getting 237 votes and his opponent, Alfred G. Jones, 232. Jones stated following the election, "It was very gratifying to me to see such a comparatively large turn-out at the polls." In the second contest in the city, incumbent Max Hulett, Justice-of-the-Peace, was elected for a full term, winning over Howard L. Richards. Hulett received 235 votes and Richards 196 votes.

FIVE YEARS AGO (April 10, 1952)  
Fire Department

The new North Farmington fire department is now in operation. It was announced Wednesday morning by Roy Bell, fire chief of the new unit. Bell stated that the area to be covered by the new department will be from 12 Mile to 14 Mile Roads and from Haggerty to Inkster Roads on the west and east. In case of fire, residents living in the area are requested to call MAYor 6-5900.

**Library Facilities**  
Representatives of Farmington organizations will meet April 30 to hear Mrs. Noonan, director of State aid to libraries. The meeting has been called as the first step in an effort to raise the Farmington City and Township Library from "fourth rating" to "second rating." Raising of the rating is dependent upon the funds appropriated by the City and Township and not on the activities of library personnel. "Fourth rating" is the lowest given to any library.



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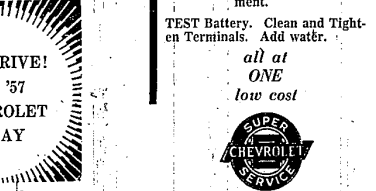
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