

FACTS and OPINIONS

by Paul Chandler



We've been on the subject of juvenile delinquents perhaps too much of late, but Judge James Lincoln of the Wayne County Probate Court has gone to a lot of work as the result of a couple of letters from Facts and Opinions, and we find his conclusions extremely interesting.

Lincoln most recently picked out 18 cases of boys in the Livonia-Farmington-Redford area who have been Juvenile Court wards on delinquency petitions during the past four years. He selected them at random, searching as he went to determine if there was some sort of pattern... some one or two trends through the group which might offer a suggestion for corrective action by society.

When he was done, Judge Lincoln (and the editor) had to agree on the simple fact that there was no pattern. Every case was different, and what might be analyzed as the cause of trouble in one young man's life, simply had nothing to do with the juvenile in the next file.

At the outset of this correspondence, Facts and Opinions was wondering aloud if it might not be helpful to publish the names of juvenile offenders in the newspaper, as a deterrent to the youths, other youths, and particularly to parents who might be inclined to brush delinquency off rather too easily.

After pulling out the 18 files, Judge Lincoln says flatly, "... in not more than two or three of these 18 cases could it be argued that publicity would have helped."

Another conclusion which shows up in these 18 cases (and throughout the work of the Court) is that delinquency almost always stops if and when the offender finds himself a real, legitimate job.

Since all 18 of these troublesome boys in the special study came from Livonia, Redford, Plymouth or nearby, the remainder of Judge Lincoln's observations have a personal poignancy. He says:

- Five of the 18 boys went to Boys Training School and one was waived to Circuit Court.
- The worst failure of all was the boy who went to Circuit Court while another child in the same family went through college. The parents of the worst failure of all were far better than average parents in every way.
- Most of the boys worked out their problems at getting into an institution, no matter how bad their record or how limited their families.
- There was not a good student in the whole lot.
- In at least six of the cases one parent was all that was available for raising the boy.
- In most cases the parents tried to work with the Court, but a considerable number of these parents were very limited in their ability to be good parents even if they were able to earn a middle class income. "There seems to be an unaccountable force that leads adults to repeat the life pattern of their own youth and inflict on their children the same limitations that their own parents inflicted on them. I should like to suggest that nearly all of these parents furnished their children as good a home as their own parents furnished them."
- A considerable number had great difficulty in making the change from rural to urban living. (Several of the youths had moved with their families into this area from the South).

There is no such thing as a typical delinquent. There also is no such thing as a typical parent. In at least six of these 18 homes the parents were able to raise some of their children without any trouble, and this was also true of several parents who had sons who were delinquent they had to go to an institution. Every parent is in the position of knowing that the same formula which produces a success with one child may produce a jailbird with one of their other children.

Local Hurdler Wins U.S. Olympic Berth; Honored by City, School

The home town of Olympic hurdler Rex Cawley began a month of rooting this week, as hopes rose that the Farmington

City Seeks Park Area

Farmington City Manager John Dinan was given a green light Monday to negotiate for possible purchase of 3 1/2 acres of land adjacent to the City Park.

Members of the City Council took action after receiving an appraisal valuing the flood plain land at \$15,750. The land is owned by a Mrs. Whipple.

Said Dinan, in discussing the land with the Council: "This property is an approved (Continued on Page 5)

Township Police Given a Raise; City Adds One Cadet to Force

Police in Farmington Township were granted a \$400 raise Monday, while members of the Farmington City Council moved to strengthen their force by adding one police cadet.

The Township Board was told by Supervisor Curtis Hall that the \$400 was added to starting salary for members of the force, while a \$200 across-the-board hike went to all present officers.

The \$400 boost, he said, makes starting pay for Township police \$3,200 a year.

Meanwhile at Monday's Council meeting, City Manager John D. Dinan told Councilmen, "The Public Safety Department needs an additional cadet to strengthen our patrol operations on weekends and holidays which are normally high accident periods."

Councilmen voted unanimously to appropriate \$2,700 to cover the balance of this fiscal year for hiring a third cadet to join the other two on the force. Annual salary is \$3,600.

Detailing the need in the City for additional police protection, Dinan said, "We are increasing our criminal complaint followups." Two Councilmen reported praise for the department prior to voting to approve the request.

Continuing discussion on the need for more police help, Dinan reported to the Council:

"The Public Safety Department needs an additional cadet to strengthen our patrol operations on weekends and holidays which are normally high crime incident periods."

"This shift shortage of manpower was developed through the reorganization of the department in establishing a Detective Division because of the heavy work load that has been developed through criminal enforcement. It should be noted that there were 249 criminal complaints that required follow-up investigation during the first seven months of this year with 1,856 other complaints, many requiring further investigation by the department. It is quite obvious that there was a definite need for a Detective Bureau which is presently being headed up by Sgt. Garden on a temporary basis."

"With our two female desk clerks working Monday through Friday and two cadets working two shifts on the weekends you can see that one shift is short both on Saturday and Sunday, requiring the Sergeant to act as Desk Officer during this time. This is not only expensive personnel to do this type of work but it also reduces the supervision of the patrol operations and the total man power available during emergencies."

"We believe that an investment in a cadet is very worthwhile for the department as we are recruiting for future replacements as permanent Public Safety Officers and receiving services at a very reasonable rate."

"If the City Council authorizes this additional cadet, it will cost the City of Farmington approximately \$2,700 for the balance of this fiscal year. We have sufficient funds in our Contingency Fund that could be transferred to cover the additional cost for this added personnel. It is the recommendation of this office that the City Council authorize the hiring of one additional cadet to strengthen our patrol operations especially on weekends and holidays when we have a very high crime incident ratio plus allowing our Sergeants to perform the duties and responsibilities that they are being paid for in supervising the patrol operations in lieu of acting as desk clerks."



GETTING EVERYONE to stand still for a formal picture (above) was a real task for the photographer, because the Pioneer Golden Age Club is neither a formal group or one that stands still. The group welcomes new members—and the next meeting is a business meeting Wednesday, Sept. 23 at St. Alexander's Hall. For more information and membership, write Box 81, Farmington. Members (l-r, seated): Gladys Williams, Jessie Rouse, Calvin Ross, Tommie Lambert, Marie Long; (l-r standing): Arthur Bingham, Steven Makowski, Mr. Makowski, Ernest Schroeder, Rose Barclay, Mable LeBlanc, Orville Barclay, Eva Ross, Ida Bingham, John Homorodean, Max Beuner, Etta Vandenberg, Herbert Long. (Photo by Junebug Clark)



EVA ROSS and Ida Bingham "cut up" as Arthur Bingham does a bit of sampling and from the expression it was a most successful turkey pot luck dinner held by the Pioneer Golden Age Club. The party was hosted by Eva Ross and John Homorodean. In addition to regular business meetings the Pioneer Golden Age Club enjoys informal get-togethers of fun and fellowship, singing and plenty of good feasts. (Photo by Junebug Clark)

Board OKs New School Addition

By JOY STINSON

The Farmington Public School District Board of Education met last night and gave top priority to the proposed addition to Bond Elementary School and alterations on the existing structure.

With specific revisions, the Board approved plans and specifications for the architectural and structural work on the Bond addition subject to review by the maintenance and teaching staff.

At the same time the Board increased the pro-

posed budget from \$208,000 to \$255,000 for new construction and repairs on the existing building. New work approved for the present structure includes replacement of a combustion chamber, addition of a fan and repair of the heating plant.

Board members also discussed (Continued on Page 5)

Board of Commerce Draws Two Blanks in Holiday Campaign

A donation of \$750 from the City Council kicked off the Farmington Board of Commerce's campaign Monday to raise \$4,000 for community Christmas tree decorations. But the Board met roadblocks at two other places—the Township Board and the Board of Education.

At the Township Board, they got an outright denial of funds, based, among other things, on a legal opinion by the township attorney. At the Board of Education, there was some reluctance expressed at a proposal by the Board of Commerce to sponsor a benefit football game to raise funds for the holiday lights, but the matter remains under study.

Council members had originally been asked for a \$1,600 donation by the Board of Commerce, but instead unanimously agreed to give \$750, and spend the balance themselves on a tree for the municipal building display.

In the past, the Board has provided the decorations and the city has donated the labor to erect them at Christmas. Last year, the board spent \$1,200 to buy new decorations.

Meanwhile, the Township Board voted unanimously against donating any money because, as Supervisor Curtis Hall said, "there are more important items." Township Board members also were told by their attorney that a recent Supreme Court decision forbids support of the cost of Christmas decorations by a governmental agency.

The School Board, a committee was appointed to study the idea of a fund-raising football game. A report will be made at the Board's next meeting.

City Manager John Dinan further explained the Board of Commerce's request. (Continued on Page 4)

Parents Seek New Traffic Light at 'Dangerous' City Intersection

The Farmington City Council in action: Parents of school children who daily cross Grand River at Powers Road urged the City Council Monday to install a traffic signal at the intersection, which they termed one of the "most dangerous" in the city.

Mrs. Charles Hazen, Frederick Ave., Mrs. Lawrence Steinhewer, Slocum Ave., and Mrs. Andrew Markovich, Frederick Ave., appeared before the Council with their demand.

They were told by Public Safety Chief Maurice Poltz that a State Highway Department pedestrian survey would be taken this week to determine a need for the light.

And Council members — who sympathized with the parents — indicated the city itself would support of such Christmas decorations, as money belonging to non-Christian faiths would actually be being used contrary to their beliefs.

Credit Card Plan for Farmington?

Farmington may be getting its own Credit Card plan for local shoppers one of these days. At least the idea is being talked about.

Board of Commerce President Edwin R. Oglesby told The Observer this week that discussion of such a plan will highlight the Board's Sept. 29 meeting.

On that date Board members will gather at the Park House Frontier Town at 6:30 p.m. for the group's first meeting of the fall. Dinner will be buffet style at \$2.50 per person and tickets are available from Board of Commerce officers.

Besides the credit card idea, the dinner symposium will consider other aspects of retailing. "We have 65 members now," Oglesby said, "and we hope to see a large share of them—and newcomers, too—at the first meeting."

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