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**Farmington Socially Speaking**  
By JERRY WENDT

"That we may see the lamp of human hope become a star" — the above lines are a quotation from John Massfield and singularly appropriate in the following story.

The following is a report of an event that occurred during this past month when the constant battle of election news, dissension, strikes and the clash of individual selfishness has been our daily fare.

Last week for the first time in the history of Farmington Township, a round table discussion was held by members of the Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Jewish religions.

All participants were ordained members of their religion. The meeting was held at the Drake House on Maple Road.

Its purpose was to discuss community problems and their solutions and to exchange information which might prove helpful to each other. The name of this group is "The Farmington Clergy Fellowship". Attending the meeting were Rev. William Holmes, Monsignor Thomas Beahan, Father Joseph Rydz, Pastor Karl Kaitreider, Rev. Robert Eddy, Rev. George Ramsey, Rev. Ralph Striebe, Rev. Richard Markham, Rev. David Stanton, Rev. Carl Shultz, Rev. Charles Fox, Rev. Frank Comand, Rev. Joseph Pelham, Rabbi Shervin Wine.

The group will meet the third Thursday of each month at the Drake House with the exception of the month of November when the meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

From these discussions will come the ideas of the religious leaders will bring back to their congregations and then through the various members they will become community movements.

It seems incredible that there should be any misunderstanding about such a group and yet many people still insist on seeing the church from the old-fashioned standpoint of its position as community watchdog or censure.

"People realize that everything else has become modernized, but fail to see the church in its new light. We do not wish to function as a joy-killer or censoring group," says Rev. William Holmes, spokesman for the group. "We hope to provide guidelines whereby they themselves might choose a satisfactory way of life. We will be purely an advisory or educational body," he continued. "We will bring the information to the layman, who in turn will carry on the work."

The Roundtable of the Farmington Fellowship meets at 11 a.m. for lunch, followed by a discussion period.

Rev. William Holmes issued the following invitation to any member of a religious faith: "This Roundtable is open to any leader or representative of any religious faith in Farmington. All are invited to attend."

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**LONE WOLF**  
The fellow who indulges in double-dealing soon finds that his case is hopeless.

**STUDY COMPUTER OPERATION**—James Carey, electronics teacher at Franklin, explains the operation of a digital computer to Franklin students (l. to r.) John Van Pelt, Bill Fisher, Richard Miller, Mary Anne Gell, and Mr. James Carey.

**School Board Briefed on Handicapped Children**

The Farmington Public School Department of Special Education was the topic of a detailed briefing before the Board of Education at their regular bi-monthly meeting last Monday evening.

Dr. Hugh Watson, director of the program, outlined the facilities available for mentally, emotionally and physically handicapped children provided by the Farmington School District.

The program was called "one of the most complete in the area."

Evidence of its success was shown by the employment records of the first 10 students to graduate from senior high school as a part of the program for the educable mentally handicapped.

All but one of the 10 recent graduates are successfully employed. The single student unemployed is well trained and between jobs. Two of these former students are janitors. Others are a bowling alley worker, baker's helper, nurse's aide, print shop worker, septic tank worker, carpenter's apprentice and greenhouse worker.

In addition to his report, Dr. Watson made several projections and recommendations. He predicted 30 more educable children to be in the program by the end of the year. The Board was asked to consider continuing the program at its present pace even if the county is not able to provide a subsidy.

Dr. Watson also asked that the Board consider hiring an additional visiting teacher.

The report was divided into discussion of three groups of handicapped children: the district works with—the mentally handicapped, physically handicapped and those in the adjusted study program.

The first group includes the educable mentally handicapped, trainable retarded children and those children requiring only a teacher-counselor program to supplement their general classroom work.

The mentally handicapped represent about 2.3 per cent of a population of about 288 in the Farmington district, according to the United States Office of Education. The district now has 125 of these children in the school system.

The educable mentally handicapped—slightly less than 1 per cent—use six classroom units and attend both elementary and secondary school. These children are potentially socially competent. When they reach the 11th grade, they are encouraged to begin on-the-job training to prepare them for a suitable occupation. It is from the group that the program's 10 recent success stories have graduated.

There is one class of trainable retarded children with learning rates downward from 50 per cent. These students are partially socially competent.

The third program for mentally handicapped services 22 children who function most effectively in a general classroom. They are assisted by a teacher-counselor program which provides one trained teacher to consult when needed with both students and families.

Physically handicapped (U.S. Office of Education estimates 1 per cent of a population of 125 in the area) includes those children orthopedically and otherwise physically handicapped, deaf, partially sighted and hard-of-hearing.

Three classroom units—45 enrollment—aid children who are orthopedically and otherwise physically handicapped. Occupational and physical therapy also is provided.

The 14 deaf students in the Farmington area include both pre-school and primary-aged children. They attend special school on a half-day basis.

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