

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal Of Progress" Established 1888

P.O. Box 435 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington GR. 4-6225

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REPRESENTATIVES

In Our Opinion

Positive, Not Negative Thinking Needed

Coming as very much of a surprise to us last week was the announcement of the sale of the Farmington Plaza Shopping Center to a group of businessmen headed by three Birmingham professional men.

The three are Edward B. Emery, an attorney, and B. H. Carey and Lorne G. Olsen, certified public accountants with a firm in Birmingham. Our sincere best wishes for great success go out to these three men and the other businessmen involved in the purchase.

As good sized shopping centers have sprung up in communities around Farmington, there have been comments frequently heard on a negative note about what was going to happen to Farmington. There is no question that large centers outside our community have and are continuing to draw some business away from local stores. But the Farmington Enterprise has never felt it was anyone's duty to close smaller local business establishments and shopping centers here are doomed.

The businessmen who have just acquired the Farmington Plaza Shopping Center apparently feel the same as we that there is a great business future in rapidly growing Farmington City and Township.

In making the announcement of the acquisition of the Farmington Plaza, the spokesman for the buyers stated that the purchase was made because they are convinced that the Farmington area

Sensationalism Not Our 'Cup of Tea'

It is very upsetting to us to note how many people seem to thrive on sensationalism and will even go out of their way to make a big issue or fuss over some unfortunate or distasteful thing which happens in a community.

Naturally, any citizen in a community is concerned when charges are made against a public official, governmental department or prominent citizen of wrong doings or of actions not in the best interest of the general citizenry or the community as a whole.

As newspaper people, we have an obligation to report these things to our readers in a factual manner and in some cases it is detrimental to the character and integrity of the people involved. We would be totally failing in our duty to our readers, however, if we were to report charges or actions taken regarding community incidents of leaders.

The unfortunate part of the whole thing is that it is often not possible, because of time or circumstances, to present both sides of the matter in the same story or same week. Far too many people seem to forget that there are two sides to the story, therefore, and start doing some pretty vicious

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago
DECEMBER 10, 1959
Seek \$4,000
The Farmington Goodfellows will be out on street corners around the community this Friday to sell the Farmington Enterprise Goodwill Newspaper Edition and raise \$4,000 for the area's needy families. Christmas Goodwill Drive Chairman this year is John Allen.

10 Years Ago
DECEMBER 10, 1954
Goodfellows Paper
Farmington Goodfellows will be out on street corners around the community this Friday to sell the annual Goodwill Edition of the Farmington Enterprise and raise funds for needy families this Christmas. Fred Menke is the chairman of this year's Goodwill campaign in Farmington.

15 Years Ago
DECEMBER 8, 1949
Yule Decorations
The Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce had members out last week putting up Christmas decorations around the community. The decorations erected a large Christmas tree for the City. Jaycee Ken Chapman headed up the decorating committee.

Falcons Win
The Farmington High School basketball team successfully opened their 1959-60 season with a victory over Plymouth's quietest, 35 to 28, last Friday night. The Falcons secured their second victory of the young season by dumping Wayne High, 57-32, this Tuesday night. Dave Dimeyzer pumped in 23 points for the Falcons against Wayne to end the scoring.

Twp. Office Hours
Clayton Goers, Farmington Township Treasurer, this week announced that the Township offices will be open on a regular schedule of hours, 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturdays. These hours will remain in effect until March 1, 1960.

The average American eats
ten times his weight in a year.

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be held upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Opposing View Gets Lengthy, Delayed Answer

To the Editor,
I should like to congratulate the editor of The Enterprise for his help in advertising the letter I wrote to the Letter Box a few weeks ago. I know many people that missed the letter originally were obliged to look up after reading the editorial. They probably wondered, as I did, why this letter was singled out for some personal and rather violent criticism in the editorial column, ostensibly for being lacking in facts.

I must ask the editor to read the Public Letter Box column heading where it states that "the opinions expressed etc." No where do I see the statement that "all letters printed must contain only facts - not opinions."

I believe that an outburst like this could be caused not because the opinions stated in the letter were not logical or sound, but because they were in opposition to the editorial views of the paper or the group for which it speaks. Certainly it is a newspaper's privilege to take whatever stand it chooses on public issues and to promulgate their views but I believe it is neither healthy for the community nor good for the newspaper when the editor chooses to personally attack a letter writer for expressing an opinion contrary to the published policy of that paper. This opinion, incidentally, is not only mine; it is shared by numerous friends both in the township and in the city.

I had not expected to write another letter, however, the editorial poses so many interesting points, almost all of which are irrelevant - that I feel compelled to answer.

I am, and was, aware that changing the football game from Friday to Saturday was an easy way to not thought up only to benefit the B. of C. Christmas Fund (although most of the pre-game advertising would have gone to benefit this) and that half the proceeds from the adult ticket sales went to the athletic fund.

I agree with the athletic department and the B. of C. Directors that this project offers "an opportunity to raise more funds to benefit both the community and the school athletic fund." I merely questioned which benefits the community most—the use of the funds for charitable reasons or for decoration.

The third objective—to get a greater adult turnout and more community interest—is admirable. I agree with this in my first letter and still do. I think this annual game deserves better attendance than it had this year—and very likely would get it played at night. But if they do, bring your own chairs, it's a long stand!

Speaking of night football, the editorial stated "The fact is that the Farmington Board of Education and the school system's administrators have turned 'thumbs down' on night football." I merely questioned the "fact" in view of the schedule just completed by both high schools wherein each school played 3 out of 6 games, or 50 per cent of the schedule "fact" should have been "have turned 'thumbs down' on night football played in Farmington."

I appreciate the statement that many people worked hard to make the Old Yule Log Benefit game a big success. I know it takes work and I know many people worked hard, but surely the editor does not mean that he believes all it takes is hard work to make a cause right and good and just! There is an old axiom that states that the amount of effort required to do a thing is inversely proportional to the quality of the product. Perhaps in this case if the cause were better it would not require so great an expenditure of effort.

In mentioning the Old Yule Log Benefit game, I take particular exception to the use of the word "benefit" in this promotion. Regardless of the word "benefit" I am sure that those responsible are aware that in this use the term carries the inference of being associated only with charities or functions. The American public has been conditioned by expert professional collection groups to separate accidents that are caused at these occasions from the total of 5 people were injured. Four of these people were injured at the Farmington and 9 at the recent, the 4 injured were small children 3 and 4 years of age. Then on November 27, 1964, a truck-car collision injured two more and did much more, but contrary to the editorial opinion, I doubt if anyone is injured.

Why a town is decorated could probably be debated for many hours, but contrary to the editorial opinion, I doubt if much money or effort would be put forth to decorate the business section if people were only to drive through and not stop. But this was no issue. I did not disapprove of decorating the community. I did suggest that the business people decorate and pay for their own business sections. If the B. of C. wants to decorate the non-business sections in the spirit of community interest—fine!

I am sure this would not cost the presently estimated \$4,000, and I am sure that if the group exercised the same business techniques for purchasing decorations as they do with their own businesses, they could effect some economies with the "public funds" not now being utilized.

While I don't really see how this paragraph is relevant to the theme of my first letter, I might better mention the money I usually spend for our home decorations, it suggested a great idea for next year's promotion. And because the editorial first suggested it, I would be glad to give full credit to The Enterprise. It is good for me, then, that it is good for the community, so next year why don't you suggest that all the people in the community plant Christmas trees and other decorations and donate the money toward really decorating the town.

Then on Christmas morn anyone can bring their presents to the shopping centers and open them all at once. This should be spectacular! I'll go along with it if everyone dis- will.

Agreed also that a good citizen "is interested in the whole community and supports the business and professional people, etc." While it is only opinion—not fact—I believe that most businesses in town would have great difficulty supporting them if they were not supported as they are presently by the residents of the community outside the city. However, until the Enterprise starts practicing what it preaches with respect to working for the good of the whole (as witness the Nov. 26 sports page and obvious favoritism and dispenses with its petty community, not just the city, page) we shall have little progress in this respect.

P.S. Appreciated seeing the American Flag on the football field for the Old Yule Log game. Many thanks to whom ever was responsible.

Sincerely,
Warren G. Bopp

Sour Note in Story About JV Grid Game

To the Editor:
This is not a gripe letter and I'm not threatening to drop the Enterprise, however, I do wish a voice an objection on how well-drafted reporters handle articles that are of interest to our youngsters. I am referring to your article in the November 19 publication. It gives a good account of the Farmington and North Farmington varsity teams' game.

Then it falls on its face school played 3 out of 6 games, or 50 per cent of the schedule "fact" should have been "have turned 'thumbs down' on night football played in Farmington."

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MR. AND MRS. HAGGY WIGGLE of Farmington are shown here enjoying the Bermuda sunshine while vacationing in Bermuda at the Bermudiana Hotel.

Wm. Gay Earns New Ford Post

William H. Gay of Farmington has been appointed assistant manager of Ford Motor Company's Dearborn Engine Plant. He moves to the newly established position from the Engine and Foundry Division's Product Engineering office where he has served as executive engineer of advance engine and design services.

Prior to his most recent position, Mr. Gay headed a team of Ford engineers which designed and developed the 258 cubic-inch engine for Ford's participation in the 1953 Indianapolis 500 race. It was the culmination of this basic passenger car and truck design. The British made Lotus chassis that started the trend toward lightweight rear engine cars at the Indianapolis race classic.

JOINING FORD IN 1954, Mr. Gay has served as a senior engine project engineer, and has held supervisory post in passenger car and truck design. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Gay also attended graduate engineering schools at the U.S. Naval Academy and Cornell University.

Mr. Gay, his wife and three children live at 29795 Woodbrook in Farmington.

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Cites Bad Intersection

Dear Sirs:

This letter to you completely expresses my view on the traffic situation at the two intersections of Farmington Road and 9 Mile and Freedom and Farmington Rd.

November 18, 1964, in two separate accidents that occurred at these intersections a total of 5 people were injured. Four of these people were injured at the Farmington and 9 Mile intersection. 2 of the 4 injured were small children 3 and 4 years of age. Then on November 27, 1964, a truck-car collision injured two more and did much more, but contrary to the editorial opinion, I doubt if anyone is injured.

As of this writing these two

Masons to Meet To Consider Remodeling Job

A meeting of the members of all Farmington Masonic Orders which meet in the Farmington Masonic Temple will be held on Thursday, December 10, to decide on remodeling plans for the building.

The Temple Board of the Farmington Lodge 151 F.&M.S. has been working for the past few years to provide a more adequate building. A year ago they purchased the old Town Hall building from the City and Township of Farmington, after dealing against plans for a new building.

LAST SPRING at an association meeting the Temple Board was directed to prepare plans and obtain prices on costs for remodeling the old building remodeled, upstairs and downstairs.

The Board reports that the plans are now ready for consideration, and when they are approved, bids can be taken.

All members of Farmington Masonic Orders are urged to attend the meeting which will be at the Temple at 7:30 p.m. Out of town members are asked to write and let their wishes be known.

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FARMINGTON

By HUGH BRONAUGH, Mgr.

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