

# Editorial Page

## Farmington Mills . . .

will close forever next Saturday, and this cannot help but bring back memories to some of the long time residents. To some of the newer residents, it probably won't mean much.

Any middle aged person who has been around any smaller towns in his lifetime won't have too much trouble understanding the important part such a mill played in its community. And he'll remember, also, their decline in importance and business in recent years.

The Gildemeister family was part of a certain era, and their part in Farmington history was a strong one. The younger folks will inherit a real historical heritage, which may not be appreciated by them after a generation or two.

In the early days such a mill was an economic necessity. When people first settled a community the first thing they looked for was water. After a few families were in the area they next began to think about a mill, where their grains could be ground. This was their hey-day. When large commercial flour mills started, they turned to grinding feeds for farmers, and put their own brands on the market, still doing well commercially. Large farm feed companies soon emerged, and most community mills started the downward trend, becoming simply a retail outlet for shipped-in feeds, with a steadily dwindling amount of local grinding.

Farmington Mills was like so many others, with one exception. This was that it was kept in the family and operated by that family for 62 years. A lot of grist went through the mill in that time, and the Gildemeisters served a changing community faithfully, honestly and well.

There is likely some poetic justice in the fact that the site of the city's oldest business, which has given so much in the way of service, will some day become the city community center. In fact, it has been a community center for many, many years. So we are merely saying goodbye to the old, and hello to a newer, perhaps better way of community life.

## Young People . . .

of today are preparing for marriage by "going steady," says Dr. Charles W. Cole, president of Amherst College in Massachusetts, in the Readers Digest. Young moderns frown upon and shun such dating practices of their parents' generation as cutting in on someone else's date at a dance.

A new and strange chasm between parents and young adults has resulted since "going steady" became the pattern for social life of the young, Dr. Cole writes.

Three dates in fairly rapid order are not enough to establish the "going steady" relationship, and six are plenty. So the fourth or fifth date can be crucial. If the decision is affirmative, the boy will not go out with any other girl, or the girl with any other boy. Each can count on the other for any date, dance, or other school event.

If the boy goes far away to school, he is admired by his fellows if he lives a completely monastic life at college. His sacrifice brings him respect and sympathy.

Oddly, the author observes, the revolution is a triumph of rural 19th century customs that caused boys and girls to "pair off" in more or less stable fashion.

Nobody is quite sure why today's young people have reverted to earlier ways, but one result is clear. The average age for marriage has dropped rapidly. Couples "going steady" often play with the idea of marriage as early as the second or third date.

## We Commend . . .

the City Council for their action Monday evening in laying aside bids on remodeling the city hall until they can determine if it might be wiser to take that money, sell the present municipal building, and start a new office building on the Farmington Mills site.

It may turn out that won't be the thing to do, but the members do intend to investigate all angles first.

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**NOVI** — Novi police had their eyes out for bank robbers Tuesday afternoon but saw neither hide nor Halloween mask of them.

Police Chief Lee BeGole joined in the area-wide dragnet for two false faced men who held up a branch office of the Detroit Bank and Trust Company at Grand River and Middlebelt in Farmington and made off with \$2,850. Staked out along Grand River in a semi- roadhouse, BeGole and state troopers waited three hours until the holdup car was found abandoned many miles away.

"We didn't even see a car answering the description," BeGole said. "Closest we came was a farmer who turned up Haggerty. His car was the right color but the wrong make."

—The Novi News

**LATHRUP** — The Council has instructed its building committee to study the City of Detroit building code and make recommendations as to its adoption by the City of Lathrup Village. The Council also instructed the committee to study the codes of Birmingham, Huntington Woods and other area communities "for any parts we might want to add to the Detroit code as amendments."

Code official said that the draft of the Lathrup building code that has already been submitted is "a good beginning but we don't think it is complete. What we want to do is add to the Detroit building code plus any amendments or exceptions we might care to add."

A move to consider adoption of the National Building Code for Lathrup was rejected by the council on the grounds that the Detroit Code more completely covered Lathrup's problem and "applies to its best residential and commercial construction."

—The Birmingham Eccentric

**PLYMOUTH** — The Plymouth City School District's "Queen of the Fleet" is the new Plymouth Community Junior High School along South Mill Street. Total cost of the new unit was \$1,749,831. The cost per square foot is \$16.69 which is considered normal for junior high schools. Superintendent Russell Isbister stated that the junior high usually cost between \$14 and \$18 a square foot. The new 1,000 high is designed to handle 1,000 students. At present 1,200 students are crowded in six grades to ease crowding in elementary buildings.

—The Plymouth Mail

**SOUTHFIELD** — The township learned Tuesday it had lost its grip on the sale of packaged liquor in township places of business.

A surprised Township Board learned that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission had brushed aside its request that an SDD license not be granted Food/Lanes Market on Southfield Road and had issued a permit as of October 14. The Township Board was not advised of this move until Monday of this week.

Several board members Tuesday were of the opinion that the reversal of policy on the part of the liquor commission constituted a violation of township rights and an affront to its authority and appeared in the mood to sue Township Supervisor Eugene Swenson. He has been authorized to immediately contact the commission for clarification of its action and, if possible, to nullify the permit already granted. He was told to employ the services of the township attorney if he felt it advisable.

The township has for years taken the stand that package liquor licenses, if and when granted, would go to drug stores only.

—The Four Corners Press

**SOUTH LYONS** — The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lyon Township School Board reported to the Kiwanis Club meeting Monday. Lyon Township Schools operated last year's budget at about \$150,000 or about \$272.72 per student, it was reported. Of this amount, 55 percent is devoted to instruction.

Evaluation of an increased curriculum and determining what to do with the old high-school building were listed as projects of the respective committees on the advisory committee.

—The South Lyon Herald

**WAYNE** — Plans are underway for Wayne's Annual Business, Industry, Education and Labor Day which has been set for November 12.

Already planned for the day is a tour of the new schools including the visiting of classes in session, a discussion on finances and the eating of lunch in a school cafeteria.

—The Wayne Dispatch

I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me, and the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart.  
—Jerome K. Jerome

I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident.  
—Thomas A. Edison

## Pickpocket in the Crowd



## MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

### Industrial Pay Scale Highest Here, Says Manufacturers Assn.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES' PAY is higher in Michigan than anywhere else in the nation, according to a survey of labor report referred to by Michigan Manufacturers Association.

Industries of this state are listed as paying an average of \$94.98 per week in 1956. Nevada ranks second with \$92.10; Montana third with \$91.30. Ohio followed with a weekly average of \$90.81. Indiana workers received \$88.65; Illinois \$84.25; Wisconsin workers were paid an average of \$82.95.

Workers in the east drew less. New Jersey workers had an average weekly wage of \$80.20; in Pennsylvania it was \$80.20; in New York, \$78.96.

Hourly wages paid in Michigan was second high in the U. S. Nevada hourly wages averaged \$2.43, while in Michigan the rate was \$2.33. Michigan's total wage rate places, at the nation's top because the average work week here was 40.8 hours per week compared to Nevada's 37.9.

Michigan's 1956 rate of \$94.98 was 27 percent higher than the rate in 1951, which was \$75.55.

The governor's relentless drive for higher taxes upon industry plus the union's steady pressure for higher wages and shorter hours, says an MMA newsletter, are responsible for "the chilly business climate so discussed in Michigan."

In other instances MMA has pointed out that wage and tax costs, higher than competitors in other states, put Michigan manufacturers at a disadvantage when they place their products on the market.

NATURAL GAS to heat homes of Michigan and to power its industry remains a major goal of government and the fast-growing empire which markets it.

There has never been enough gas for the state.

It first came to Michigan 20 years ago through the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline to Detroit. Now two more pipelines bring natural

Lansing observers hear consistent reports that still another pipeline is being planned.

William believes the day is coming when any homeowner in Michigan or industry or business who wants natural gas for power of heat will be able to get service.

A few years ago, there was talk of tapping into the trans-Canadian pipeline to serve the Upper Peninsula and the northern part of the

(Continued on Page 3C)

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**CLOSED SUNDAYS**



Glenn Green, associate director of the National Education Program, continues his dispatches from Europe. G.S.B.

## WELFARE STATE REALITIES

**LONDON, ENGLAND** — Dear Dr. Benson: In my first dispatch from London it was noted that 40 percent of the income-earning people of England's Welfare State receive less than \$100 a month. This less-than-\$100 figure is gross—in other words, before income taxes and Welfare State deductions are figured. The net spendable income is less.

There are other enlightening statistics on income. A total of 19,430,000 (about 95 per cent) of the United Kingdom's 20,500,000 income earners have take-home pay of less than \$2,800 a year. And 87 per cent have net incomes of from \$350 to \$2,600 a year — (with most of these nearer the \$1,000 figure). Only 200 persons in the United Kingdom's 51,221,000 population have net incomes of \$16,000 or more. For me, this was one of the shocking realities of the Welfare State. There are more \$16,000 net incomes in Kansas City, Missouri (or any other sizeable American city) than in the whole of the United Kingdom with its 51-million population!

## Investment Potential Smoothed

What once was the upper income level of Britain's population now has been wiped out by the Welfare State's heavy taxation, its Socialist program of redistribution of wealth, its virtual confiscation of inheritance, its nationalizations, and most importantly its destruction of incentive among the most capable, wealth-producing people.

This fact pretty well explains the answer given by "Gerald O'Brien, chief of information for the Conservative Party, when asked about the future of England's nationalized coal industry. "Will the coal industry be returned to private ownership if the Conservative Party is successful in the next election?" I asked. "Oh, no," he said.

"Why not?"  
"Well, of course," he said, "we don't have anybody in England who wants to get into the coal mining business, and who has the money to do it."

"Push Down Hard"  
The Socialist doctrine, from Karl Marx to Norman Thomas, says, "We must reach down and pull up the lower income strata, place it on top — and then push down hard." That has been done with sheer governmental force in Britain.  
(Continued on Page 3C)

## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 27, 1932)

**Poor Relief**  
Farmington Township is preparing to administer family relief this winter with the township relief plan to go into operation January 1. The decision by the Township Board last spring to have 45 acres planted in potatoes, beans and other vegetables will result in a large savings this winter. As a result of the spring planting, the only items the township will be required to pay for will be bread, milk, a few other perishable foods, fuel and medical care and hospitalization. Clothing for children will be supplied from a fund system of volunteer contributions planned to raise funds for indigent adults. As yet there has been no serious housing problem in the township. Supervisor Arthur Coe said. The number of township families requiring aid has varied between 60 and 80 during the past year.

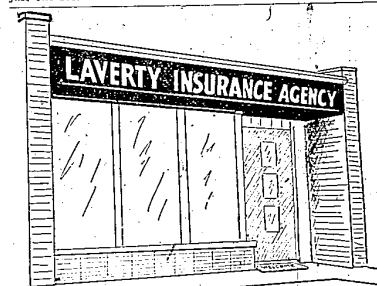
TEN YEARS AGO (October 30, 1947)

**Telephone Exchange**  
The area district manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company announced Wednesday that the company is going ahead with the establishment of the Longacre zone created from part of the Farmington and Birmingham exchanges and the present Pontiac exchange. The Farmington portion of the new zone includes the community of North Farmington. Other local users will consist mainly of occupants of small farms in the section between 13 and 14 Mile Roads. The Longacre exchange in general, however, will serve the West Bloomfield area. The new zone will be served by a community district office with the cutoff to service being made on a line by line basis beginning about the first of January.

**School Lights**  
It was announced Wednesday that four lights had been erected by Livonia Township around Clarenceville High; three in the front of the building on Middlebelt and one in the rear. The lights have been installed as a safety precaution as well as a protection against vandalism.

FIVE YEARS AGO (October 30, 1952)

**Recreation Area**  
A request for the establishment of park and recreational facilities in Section 30 of the township was made to the Township Board at a meeting Tuesday. The request was made by a group of residents in this area, located in the extreme southeast corner of the township. It was requested that a study of recreational problems in this area be made immediately and that efforts be made to secure land for this purpose before it was all bought up. Supervisor Ernest Blanchard questioned whether the township could legally buy property for this purpose. He also stated that if and when any action were taken it would have to be in the interest of the entire township and not in just one section of it.



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