

Editorial Page

Secrecy Not Good

The state legislature is getting a lot of blame these days, but despite all the headlines about state finances it is still going ahead and getting quite a fair amount of work out of the way.

Last week a bill to guarantee public access to all school board meetings zipped through the House and moved on to the Senate. It was one of two right-to-know bills introduced this year with the backing of the Michigan Press Association. The other is expected to compel township boards to conduct their business in the open.

The school board bill, which incidentally is endorsed by the Michigan Education Association, would permit boards to conduct executive sessions, but any final action would have to be taken at a public meeting, with notice given 24 hours in advance.

As of now, and in the immediate past, such a bill would not be needed in the Farmington area. Most members of the school board, township board and city council, and other public bodies, have a high sense of their responsibility to the public and its right to know what goes on, how they vote, and how the public funds are spent. We've little doubt it will continue that way.

However, things can change, and have in other communities. As a very recent example, last week the new members of the governing body of Wayne State University held their first public meeting. They held a very general meeting for awhile, then went into executive session, from which the public and reporters were excluded. Wayne State, only recently becoming a public college, will have a job for some time selling itself and its problems to the public outside the metropolitan area. It isn't going to help from a public relations position if the public gets the idea it will be run as a closed project, not accountable to the taxpayers.

These right-to-know laws are for the public, not newspapers. Attempts to do public business in private aren't common, but they do happen often enough that some public safeguards are necessary. That's the reason for these laws now before the legislature.

Teachers' Lesson

Nobody really wants to work anymore. You've heard that lament quite often. Personnel directors say the average applicant first asks about pay, vacations, and retirement benefits, somewhat later about opportunity. And labor leaders are constantly seeking even shorter working hours.

But a surprising thing happened a few months ago at an elementary school at Summit, New Jersey. A joint committee of teachers and school administrators asked for and received a longer working day. This semester thirty minutes were added to the school session to give the children the "opportunity to receive more classroom instruction in their major subjects."

Probably the Summit pupils are little for the conscientiousness of the faculty, but they are sure to profit by it. They will have a better chance of mastering their subjects, but more important when they are working at their own jobs later they may recall that at least once in their lives somebody wanted to work longer to do a better job.

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RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
A. DEB ELLI, Manager
MICHAEL J. KILLEY, Editor
THOMAS W. CORNWELL, Advertising Manager
VICTOR S. HOWARD, Plant Superintendent

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

Elimination of 14 services from the educational program previously offered in the District school system has been ordered.

The move was necessary as the result of defeat of a school tax increase proposal which would have been necessary for the Board of Education to slash \$4.5 million from its proposed operating budget for the next school year.

The 14 services to be eliminated are: (1) Summer school; (2) the gardening program; (3) use of school buildings, pools, etc. for summer recreation; (4) eliminate the hiring of any new school personnel; (5) Eliminate the use of school buses for field trips; (6) all purchases of textbooks, equipment, magazines, library books and other supplies; (7) stop purchase and rental of audio-visual materials; (8) within limits, stop all outside contracts on maintenance; (9) reduce expenditures for school ground and building maintenance; (10) eliminate all overtime work except for emergency; (11) eliminate all non-student use of school buildings; (12) eliminate use of school employees for building checks; (13) eliminate one man do-it-all on weekends; (14) Cancel application for inservice training for all non-instructional employees; (15) eliminate payment of conference or convention expenses for the balance of the school year.

These are only beginning cuts to save some of the money we now have, the superintendent of schools said. Many more drastic cuts will be necessary for the coming school year.

—The Dearborn Press

NOVI — A suit has been brought against Novi Village by the Associated Investment Co., which contends that the village unlawfully failed to issue the company a building permit for a proposed trailer park.

Village Attorney Howard Bond said he would ask for dismissal of the petition because the village "is in violation of the village ordinance which forbids the company a building permit for a proposed trailer park."

The investment company was denied a permit for the proposed \$340,000 trailer park in January by Village Inspector Harold Akeley. He based his denial on grounds that the proposed park, to be located at the southeast corner of Pontiac and West roads, is zoned R-4 and R-3, for multiple dwellings and not R-3, trailer parks.

No request for rezoning was ever made, village officials stated.

—The Novi News

SOUTHFIELD — At a special session last week the Southfield City Council approved the recommendation of City Administrator Robert McNutt calling for a \$200 charge for each residential lot connected to either the Evergreen or Farmington Interceptor sewers.

In a report made to the council in April, McNutt stated that the charge, plus a prorata charge for non-residential property, based on acreage utilized, would be sufficient to cover the costs of the Evergreen and Farmington interceptors and would leave enough surplus to pay future costs of the improvements needed in the Detroit connection.

McNutt further recommended the toll storm sewers be financed by special assessment with 50% of the total cost to be assumed by the city-at-large.

No action was taken.

—The Southfield News

BIRMINGHAM — Wilbur R. Mason, Jr., manager of Jacobson's, has been selected as head of the special committee of Birmingham central business district property to owners and businessmen to determine what can be done to maintain this community as an attractive and convenient shopping center.

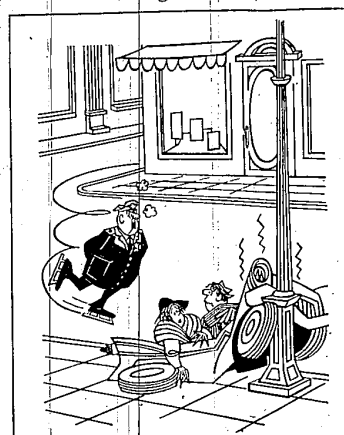
The committee will be inquiring into how it can improve the traffic and parking situations. Also to be considered will be how property owners and business people can improve the appearance of their respective buildings, stores, and offices, both inside and out.

Another consideration will be how individual companies can be the best presentation of their goods and services, accompanied by the best possible personnel representation in each commercial and professional place of business.

—The Birmingham Record

Michigan's 32,000 factories employ more than one million people.

The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



“YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU FOLKS THE ROADS WERE IN ICY CONDITION.”

Almost 300,000 casualties occurred on slippery roads in 1958.

MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

Financial Mess May Cost State Top University Faculty Members

MICHIGAN CITIZENS CAN LOSE by default one of the state's most valuable assets: its top grade university faculty members.

This means that the level of education supplied to U-M, WSU, MSU, and the six other state supported universities and colleges will suffer substantially and for a long period.

The fact is that it takes infinitely longer to build an outstanding faculty than it does to see it fall apart.

Right now Michigan educators are worried that the state's educational machine will do just that. Why are some of the best faculty people leaving? Probably two reasons. One is financial. The other is more intangible, but it might be defined as being respected or appreciated.

Spokesman for MSU and U-M have both pointed up this danger recently. Marvin L. Niehus, vice president at Michigan, said that if these institutions could not meet salaries offered by other universities, their most competent people would leave.

President John A. Hannah reported that resignations from MSU are nearly 50 per cent ahead of last year at this time. There are 147 staff members known to be leaving now, compared with 101 at this time last year.

Administrators are worried that this is just the start; that if improvement can not be made soon, that there will be a near mass exodus of top people. It is important to note that most of those who leave go to other teaching jobs; not into private industry.

This makes a delicate situation for the university leaders. They cannot make too much public clamor about their concern for fear of stimulating more people to leave and without creating a morale problem among those who stay.

The more they try to correct the issue demonstrating how low salaries are here in comparison to other schools, the more difficult they make it to attract top level faculty people for the opening created by those leaving.

It boiled down to this: If top grade faculty people leave Michigan education institutions and top grade people cannot be engaged, Michigan will offer its college and university students education in classrooms manned by less than top grade teachers.

What can be done? If there is to be improvement, it must come rapidly to be most effective. If the public would simply show a pronounced concern about what is happening to its education in classrooms, a great gain would result.

Many professors who leave Michigan are reluctant to do so, but they feel they cannot refuse offers from other states where the salary is higher and public interest in higher education is on the upswing.

Secondly, university people seem to believe that once their situation receives proper public attention, the solution will be forthcoming.

One educator said, "It's time for the public to decide what kind of educational machine they want in Michigan. Once that is determined, the legislature will be better guided about how to provide it."

HIGHWAY OFFICIALS ARE hurrying to buy the right-of-way needed for the state's \$1,550,000 superhighway construction program.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago MAY 24, 1934

ROAD WORK
The work of oiling the streets in Farmington is well underway and, with one exception, every unpaved street will receive a coating of oil.

Upon receiving the next load of oil, in about three weeks, the city will start work in making a hard surface on Farmington road between Grand River and Shiawassee. This will be the first major street work to be introduced in Farmington and will act as an experiment.

Oil will be mixed with sand and gravel and sprayed on the road bed. The passing of automobiles tends to pack the mixture and leave a smooth, hard and dustless surface.

If the experiment proves successful, next year another street in the city will be treated the same.

New Dairy
A new dairy and ice cream plant will be located in the former Detroit Urban Railroad station on the south side of Grand River at Farmington's new section by Farmington Dairy, Inc. Work of cleaning up the building and preparing it for installation of a modern and complete plant has already begun.

Rapid growth of the business, particularly in the manufacture and sale of ice cream, has necessitated the expansion, according to Joseph Himmelspach, President of Farmington Dairy, Inc.

10 Years Ago MAY 26, 1949

School Board Election
Three candidates have filed nominating petitions for election to the Farmington School Board. Two seats are to be filled, both for three year terms.

Frank Lahodie, present president of the Board is seeking re-election. Paul Schreiber, trustee, did not choose to run again. Other candidates are Curt Hall and Samuel Tipton.

The election will be held Monday June 13. Final date for registering is June 4. It was reported that new registrations have been very light to date.

Memorial Day Dates Back to Civil War Days
While the South was fighting to free itself from the Union, its women were planning the observance of one of the most revered national holidays of the U.S.—Memorial Day.

The nation was still torn by the Civil War when the women of the Union began to honor the dead from both sides of the Mason-Dixon line by scattering flowers on their graves.

According to a research encyclopedia with The World Book Encyclopedia, the women of Columbus, Miss., decorated the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers in 1863. Two years later, Mrs. Sue Laidon Vaughn, a descendant of John Adams, second president of the U.S., led some women in scattering flowers at military cemetery in Vicksburg, Miss.

As the custom spread, General John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, was persuaded to set a uniform date on which to honor the Union dead. In 1868, Logan issued a general order for all Grand Army posts, setting aside May 30th "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country."

The first celebrations in the North exalted the Union armies for their victory over the South. But the theme of victor and vanquished gradually disappeared.

★ ★

BOB ROZENBOOM SERVICE
32110 GRAND RIVER at POWER
GR. 4-9719

As the U.S. passed through the Spanish-American War, the World Wars and the Korean War, Memorial Day became a tribute to the nation and to all those who have died for it.

Nothing like this ever happened to us . . . but if it did, we'd probably find the answer. We know so much about cars that no service problem stamps us. Anything wrong, we make right!

★ ★

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

Wednesday, June 10, 1959
8:30 p.m.

Farmington Town Hall

All Residents of Farmington Township Are Invited to Participate in the Discussion of the Following Proposals:

Continuation of May 13 meeting to further discuss changes of Section VIII of Zoning Ordinance.

EDWARD SCHMID, Chairman
Township Zoning Board

(May 28, June 4, 1959)

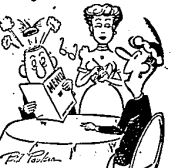
Richard Barbour Aboard USS Essex

Richard L. Barbour, fireman, USN son of William H. Barbour of 3272 Northwestern Highway, Farmington, is serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Essex operating with the Atlantic Fleet.

Currently conducting training exercises off the East Coast and in the Caribbean, the Essex provided our Mediterranean Sixth Fleet with mobile striking power during the crisis in Lebanon last summer. She then steamed halfway around the world to reinforce the Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers off Formosa during the Quemoy crisis.

Buy in Friendly Farmington!

My Neighbors



"I can tell what he'll order—two cups of coffee and two toothpicks!"

Buy in Friendly Farmington!

REMEMBER

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BUY WHERE SERVICE IS ASSURED

That's At The

Farmington Radio & TV Co.

30768 Grand River near 9 Mile Road
DEALERS FOR R.C.A. — G.E. — MOTOROLA
GR. 4-4040

The building, being constructed at the corner of Power Rd. and Grand River, is the first step in the establishment of a dial telephone system for Farmington.

The new dial system for Farmington is expected to be in operation by September of 1955 having unforeseen difficulties. Plans call for a type of equipment which will enable Farmington telephone users to dial direct to several points throughout the United States as well as all communities in southeastern Michigan.

Kindergarten Enrollment
A total of 302 kindergarten children in the Farmington School District will start school during the special pre-school enrollment period last week.

According to the 1933 school census, there are 329 children eligible to start school in the fall. Another 100, not on the '32 census, are also expected.

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CLOSED SATURDAY

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At any time we'll be glad to furnish supplies for your picnics, if ordered the day before. Try our delicious potato salad, prepared shrimp, cold meats, fried chicken, etc.

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"GOOD AS THE BEST - BETTER THAN THE REST"
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"Serving Quality Products Since 1921"

CLOSED SUNDAYS