

Editorial Page

It's Our Week

Over the nation newspapers large and small are observing National Newspaper Week, generally well supported by their own communities and organizations. We'd have liked a little time to make a study of all the ways The Enterprise serves its area—but will have to hope that most of you do understand.

The other day by some chance we got to wondering what the Farmington community would be like if something happened so there was no newspaper here. Beyond the purely social news, the weddings and obituaries, the comings and goings in the city and subdivisions, the business community would suffer from lack of interested readers for their ads. A heavy concentration of readers in the city and township makes your newspaper the cheapest and most effective way to reach the customers within the natural trade area.

We have an idea our schools would miss very much the publicity they get for their activities, the facts brought out when public understanding (and votes) are needed to help solve school problems. It seems to us there is an even greater need for a newspaper in a rapidly growing area. The township and the city need a newspaper in which to publish ordinances and regulations our people must know about, and which the newspaper only can interpret. (There are other legal notices very much in the public interest, required by law to be published. How much good would they do if they were published, for instance, in the good Pontiac paper?)

Churches and their activities are many here, and your newspaper has a special interest in seeing that readers know what is going on in religious programs. Service and fraternal groups, clubs and business organizations bring news of their progress through the newspaper.

The realization of all this only makes us more determined to give Farmington a better and better newspaper, serving more people and more advertisers—helping to provide the spark that makes this a community of citizens working together for our common good.

Court Will Okay Tax

There has been talk around Lansing for a couple of weeks that the Supreme Court will rule the increase in the use tax constitutional, and our four per cent will remain law.

This is the rumor of people who think they know. It's said Governor Williams feels he can not stand another lengthy fight in the legislature. He is trying to get in the running for the presidency, you know. In any event, the supreme court decision is due to be announced in a few days, and we'll see if these political seers really know what they're talking about.

We're afraid it's true. It's too bad the people weren't allowed by Williams to vote on the tax they wanted, when that was proposed. So the legislature passed a tax increase that may not be too sound legally, but is probably the tax preferred by the large majority of Michiganders.

Then, for political expediency, the Supreme Court Justices may decree that it is legal and to be retained.

In neither case is this good government.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

LIVONIA—Merciful relief for Livonia's cash crisis arrived by two routes last week.

Four major taxpayers (Ford's General Motors, Kroger's, and Detroit Edison) notified Mayor William Brashear they would send checks covering taxes that aren't due until Nov. 1. This will bring in more than \$550,000 in cash.

And in Lansing, the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission report in processing Livonia's application for a \$400,000 Loan. They gave an okay in a matter of days. The process normally requires weeks.

Livonia can now borrow from the banks the \$400,000 and have the money here by about Nov. 1. That is about the date when the budget department has predicted the city would run out of cash and face payless pay-days.

With advance tax payments coming in, however, the borrowing will not be necessary. But if the state has to be forced to come through with money due Livonia by Dec. 1, it will be necessary to borrow, it was emphasized.

The Livonian's BIRMINGHAM—Last spring's success in "free coffee for school" on Friday night has been started again by the retail merchants committee of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

In an effort to attract more customers to shop in downtown Birmingham on Friday nights, participating members of the merchants committee are giving customers a card for a free cup of coffee when they make a purchase between 5 and 8 p.m.

Committee chairman Foster Toolbecker termed the free-coffee program a good-will booster. "We hope the number of members are staying open on Friday nights in order to give the customers more shopping time."

"Last year's program was extremely successful," by the participating members.

The Birmingham Eccentric.

PLYMOUTH—Formation of an economic commission to promote Plymouth as a place to build new industry was a serious matter of lengthy discussion among officials of the townships of Plymouth and Canton, the city of Plymouth and the board of education Monday night.

This was the third in a series of joint meetings among the four governing groups.

Agreement of the meeting was devoted to a study of the school board's proposal to furnish new school facilities during the next ten years.

Selected officials concluded that the only way to keep taxes down while building new schools is to keep the growth of industry at the heart of the growth of new homes.

How to form such a commission and who would serve on it were some of the questions asked, but there appeared to be enough interest among the officials to call another meeting in two weeks to discuss it further.

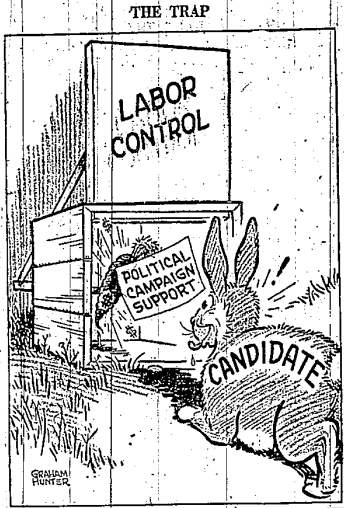
It is presumed that an economic commission would be composed of leaders in industry, business, the Chamber of Commerce, public officials and a cross-section of the community.

The Plymouth Mail.

NOVI—The new owners of the Young Door plant facilities at 4520 Grand River have announced the plant shortly after Young Door company vacates the premises on October 23.

Michigan Midget Movies, which was named for a discontinued business operation distributes coin-operated kiddies rides, the chief products manufactured by the Bally company of Chicago.

Michigan Midget also owns Sears-Lincoln, Northland and Eastland shopping center kiddie lands.



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Two Separate Movements Have 'Better Michigan' Goal

A better Michigan is the goal of two movements headed by Paul D. Bagwell and George Romney. They are approaching the goal from different directions.

Romney, American Motors president, has organized a Citizens for Michigan movement which he said is a "non-partisan alliance of individuals pledged to study and inform themselves on state problems and to provide a unifying force for effective political action."

Bagwell, the Republican candidate for governor in 1958, has laid groundwork for a strictly partisan citizens study "to provide our political party with the best thinking that can be brought to bear on state and local governmental problems."

Michigan's needs will be studied by both Bagwell and Romney. Bagwell says citizen participation in politics is the key to building Michigan. Romney says citizens must avoid blind partisanship.

But the two are closer together in thinking than either will admit publicly.

Bagwell can be expected to embrace some of the recommendations of the Romney group, especially the expected push for a Constitutional Convention. And Romney, once his recommendations are in, can be expected to nod to the politicians, acknowledging that they will exist the way they are.

What happens to Bagwell and Romney after the citizens complete their studies? Will they seek to carry out the recommendations by running for governor?

Both were asked. "I don't know," said Bagwell. Romney said he wouldn't accept if nominated by either party and wouldn't run if drafted.

SAFE DRIVER plans are offered by 500 auto insurance companies in Michigan. Some drivers qualify for discounts up to 30 per cent.

The basic idea is that accident-free drivers should not be penalized for the carelessness of the bad risks.

There is considerable debate as to how the plan should be financed. One moving violation could wipe out the discount.

Automatic reduction does not come to the good driver. A rule to remember is that the rate does not depend on who drives the car so much as who owns it. The rate is automatically lowered for teen-agers.

State Insurance Commissioner, Frank Blackford, said the plan should help make parents

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago OCT. 11, 1934
Supports Housing Act
Official Farmington threw its support to the Federal government this week by calling upon the people of the City of Farmington to help in carrying out the Better Housing Program here. The program is based on the National Housing Act and is being administered by the Federal Housing Administration. Carl G. Hogie is the chairman of the committee which will endeavor to carry out the program locally.

Radio Installed
Township police cars were having radios installed in them this week in order to provide a more expedient means of communication for the township law enforcement officers. The police cars will have similar equipment shortly. Installation of a central transmitter is being done in the police department offices in the Farmington City Hall. It will serve both township and city police calls.

5 Years Ago OCT. 14, 1954
Water Study Set
Farmington township board, at a special meeting, authorized the employment of Pate and Hirn, engineers, to conduct a survey in regard to a proposed water system in the southern section of the township. The survey will consist of securing data on the number of homes in the proposed district as well as the number and size of the water mains required for the project.

Fund Drive
Farmington's 1954 United Fund and Community Chest drive is now in full swing with 150 volunteer collectors aiding in the canvass for funds. Campaign Chairman Omar Sanderson said that the majority of collectors began their door-to-door campaign on Monday. The first progress report is due next week. This year's goal is \$24,457 and the drive will end Oct. 22.

10 Years Ago OCT. 19, 1949
Report Cards
The first round of report card markings is to be eliminated in the elementary schools this semester, decided the Farmington Board of Education at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

Report Cards
Instead of marking report cards, conferences will be held between parents and teachers of all elementary grade pupils. The conference system will not replace report cards entirely. Only the first marking of report cards will be eliminated under this new plan.

Road Repairs
Emergency repairs of roads in four sections of the township was begun this week. Har-

ry McCracken, Township Clerk, announced Tuesday. The action followed a special meeting of the township board. At the meeting, the entire road situation was discussed along with road repair estimates prepared by contractors. Plans for the filling and grading of several roads in order to improve them. Only emergency repairs will be made.

Work Suspended
Word came from CWA officials in Pontiac this week that all CWA work in Oakland county will be discontinued until at least Nov. 1. No reason was given for the temporary suspension of the CWA program here.

Constable Freed
Robert Wagoner, Southfield township's crusading constable, who was arrested last week on a bribery charge, was released this week from the Oakland County jail when he furnished a \$250 bond. He had been arrested a week in jail Charles Wilson, Farmington township attorney, who has been retained as counsel for Wagoner, asked dismissal of the charges when the defendant was brought before Judge John J. Schutte Friday for examination.

The Role of Roads in Michigan's social, economic and business life was featured in early October. The state celebrated Michigan Highway week the first observance of its kind held anywhere in the nation, according to its sponsors.

The Michigan Good Roads Federation and the Michigan Highway Users Conference joined in sponsorship.

"Roads are the life's breath of our economy," said J. Carl McConville, State Highway Week Chairman.

A sobering thought about Michigan's highway program was offered by widely quoted (by both parties) Ujapan Institute report on the state's potentials and problems.

The report said Michigan has highway needs "evident even to the casual feeder lines from Michigan cities to the Indiana Toll Road are among the priority needs, the report said.

Turkey Dinner Planned Oct. 22

Orchard Methodist W.S.G.S. will sponsor a turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Thursday, October 22, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinner will be served at the First Methodist Church in Farmington, 3312 Grand River. For additional information about the dinner and the price of tickets call GR. 4-9366.

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