

Editorial Page

Traffic From the North

A more direct route from the north to the downtown Farmington area has been indicated to be one of the major stumbling blocks in the location of at least some new business establishments in the downtown area.

If this be the case, the need is not a new one. It has been present ever since the area to the north began to develop. We look back and remember the somewhat terrifying feeling which came over us the first few times we came into the downtown area on Farmington Road from the north. Making the turn in the valley to see a very narrow bridge and then to see a northbound car pouring down McGee Hill toward us is an experience we have still not forgotten.

This is why we were somewhat elated when the re-location of Farmington Road in the city to follow its present route was first announced. Questioned at the time, however, was the advisability of a main road such as this running through a subdivision development.

The rather sharp turns on the present narrow two-lane roadway from a point a short distance north of the city limits to its southern terminus at Shiawassee Road are ones which we have negotiated with some difficulty several times. Comments from many others about the same difficulties have been heard.

It is now proposed by the City Manager and being considered by the Council to add eight foot widths of concrete paving on either side of Farmington Road from Shiawassee through the Rouge Valley Road to a point just beyond the Ten Mile intersection. Curbing and gutters is also proposed. This would provide a 36-foot wide roadway at an estimated cost of \$24,500.

The proposal made at the Downtown Business District Assn. meeting last Thursday night was that the above mentioned project be held in abeyance until a more thorough investigation can be made of the advisability and cost that might be involved in opening up the more direct old route into the downtown area again.

If opening of the old McGee Hill route is the answer to attracting more new business establishments into the downtown area then we are very much for it, but with qualifications. The re-opening of this route would have to include some changes including a wider bridge at the base of the hill, less of a sharp hook-turn just beyond the bridge and a wider surfaced roadway the entire distance.

Barring a prohibitive cost factor, we would be inclined to go along with the latter proposal if some concrete proof can be given that the more direct route can mean the difference between getting or not getting more business to locate downtown.

As we have commented before, however, just getting some new businesses to locate downtown will not be enough to make Downtown Farmington a healthy business district again. Some substantial improvements on existing business buildings (vacant and otherwise) are needed.

Orchard Mill is pad a mile to the east is the only real good north-south route in all of Farmington. But here too there is a big problem. Anyone who has been at the intersection of Orchard Lake Road and Grand River (especially during rush traffic hours) will find it hard to disagree that something should be done to provide for a better and safer flow of traffic.

Need for Curfew

A bill has now been introduced in the House at Lansing calling for a statewide curfew to help curb teen crime.

The proposed curfew would be 10 a.m. for children under 12 years old and midnight for those under 16, unless accompanied by parents or guardians.

Two questions immediately pop into our mind. If such a bill did become law would it be enforceable and is our big teen crime problem really with boys and girls under 16 years of age anyway?

Although Farmington has had a minimum of trouble with teen crime and delinquency, it is a problem here as well as in every other community across the nation.

The problem is state and nation-wide, but we feel that it is one that can be handled best at the local government level.

The Farmington Enterprise

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BUNSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
MICHAEL J. KILEY, Manager and Editor
CLIFTON WIRTH, Advertising Manager
JOSEPH MULLEN, News Editor
VICTOR S. HOWARD, Plant Superintendent

Public Letter Box

Newspaper Needed

Dear Sirs:
The 1958 New March of Dimes in Oakland County was very successful. Early reports indicate that the total will exceed the 1959 drive and, of course, that is a good thing. However, something that is perhaps more important was accomplished during our campaign. We were enabled, through the outstanding cooperation of your newspaper to inform the people of this community as to the objectives and the services of The National Foundation. I refer particularly to the expanded program in the areas of crippling birth defects and arteriosclerosis and the continuing assistance to paralyzed polio victims.

The March of Dimes depends on communication and your newspaper has provided that. We congratulate you on the success you have helped us to obtain and thank you most heartily for your outstanding contribution.

Sincerely yours,
The Rev. G. Burton Hodges
Chairman

Springland

MRS. E. EVERETT GR. 4-0278

The Springland Friendship Club will meet Saturday evening, Feb. 25 at the residence of Mrs. Reuben Siekka, 3080 Springland Dr. Mrs. James Watt will be co-hostess for the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mallon of Springfield, Dr., accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stoner of Dearborn spent the weekend of February 12 in Chicago, Illinois. They stayed at the Lake Powers Hotel which is located across from the Navy Pier.

While the ladies were shopping in the loop, the men were attending the "Video Tape" conference. The group later dined at the Heidelberg and attended the theater in the evening.

Mrs. Mallon is technical engineer at WJBK-TV and Mr. Stoner is assistant engineer.

Ray Garrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Garrison of Springland, is home after spending 27 months in France in the Ordnance Division of the Army. During his long stay in Europe, Ray had the opportunity to visit many scenic countries such as Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

Dale Shuffett Joins Maneuver

Army Pfc. Dale Shuffett, 24, whose wife, Diane, lives at 3211 Kirby, Farmington, Mich., participated with other personnel from the 33rd Ordnance Company in Exercise Winter Shield at the Greenway-Holmes training center in southern Germany Feb. 1-7.

Winter Shield, an annual Seventh Army maneuver, provided realistic training under simulated combat conditions for the 60,000 personnel of the 33rd Ordnance Division.

Dale Shuffett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marian Shuffett, 20315 Parkeville, Livonia, is assigned to the company in Hanau. He entered the Army in June 1958 and arrived overseas the following November.

Troop 116 Keeps Busy Schedule

Girl Scout Troop 116 have been busy lately playing a record of games and this spring in the big high gym.

Recently they had a mixed skating party, visited the office of the Telephone Co., worked on their sports badge at Farmington Lanes, with the help of Fred Hamlin, and visited Mrs. Givens' Bridal Shop where they were shown many gowns and were informed on how the gowns were created.

The troop is also busy selling for their sponsor, the JC's while they rehearse for the new show.

Troop 120 (intermediates) were very successful in their first sale. They made \$30.00 and had lots of fun doing it.

The city of Gardiner, Maine, built a monument to the doughnut hole. The statue honors Captain Hanson Gregory, who invented the doughnut hole in 1847.

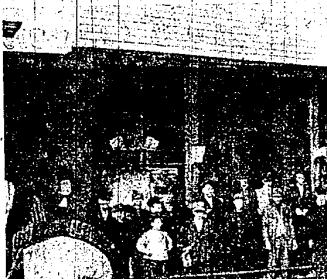
Falcon's Swamp Holly, the winning column in the big way last Friday night by soundly whipping Holly 78 to 29.

Captain Dick Tupper walked away with high point honors by scoring 16. Teammates Dick Lounsbury and Dave Dirmeyer each finished with 11.

Former Lines Down

The winter storm of the year unexpectedly struck Farmington

Do You Remember . . .



THE BULLARD PARLOR about 1910 in Farmington. When this picture was taken the pool hall was one of the recreation centers for the men and boys. The hitching post out in front and the blanketed horse are in evidence in this scene which was located just east of the present harbor shop below Farmington Road on Grand River. Pictured here is the school con-

gregation in front of the pool room which was run by John Walters. Harry Adams is the second from the left. Among others identified are: Len Robinson, Wilmer Johnson, Ed Thayer, Willard Traverse, Chester Pickett, Harry Wolf, Paul Moss, Claude Lee, Cecil Cox and on the end right "Maj" (Major) Pettibone.

Life in Farmington 50 Years Ago Was Somewhat Different

By HARLEY WALTERS

This is the third portion of a story giving a glimpse of what life was like in Farmington 50 years ago. The story will be continued in subsequent issues.

A fire alarm bell was mounted on the barn, and the following excerpt from the Enterprise of January, 1909, explains our fire protection:

"At the regular held Monday evening to organize a fire company, it was decided to divide the citizens into two companies. The chief appointed the following persons to be in charge of the chemicals and to be under the direct charge of Fred Pauline, Sub-chief; H. Weaver, Herman Schneider, and the First Captain, Mr. George A. Appel. Amos Otis to be the second captain. Everyone is expected to bring a pall.

Frank H. Lee, Village Clerk." The lin shop and telephone office of Mike and Matilda Doherty was where the Home-Steal House is located. The In-

terior County Phone Company was established the Citizens Telephone Company, and the first telephone in the town was installed in 1909. All 50 phones were connected, and night service consisted of having someone sleep in the phone office. Telephone numbers were assigned according to the date the order was received. Those who had not received a number by Jan. 10 included Fred Cook, Amos Otis, Dr. Holcomb, Dr. Miller and the Enterprise. Mike Doherty received praise for keeping the people informed during the election returns when Taff defeated Bryan. The telephone operator, Mrs. Doherty, also served the town square but she kept those things to herself.

NEXT TO DOHERTY'S was the Munster property, a two-story frame building occupied

by D. K. Smith's Furniture Store. Mr. Smith did a good business in home furnishings and, as a side line, took on the agency for the Overland Automobile. According to the advertisement, he was even prepared to quote prices. The balance of the ad continues: "Only a number of teams and sleighs were required to push and wood were used."

Wallace Hutton's woodworking shop was where the Plymouth Garage is located. The wood lathe was operated by a gasoline engine that was exhausted outside the building and made a lot of noise. Wood products were a lot of use in those days.

Warren's Cheese Factory, the present site of the L. & H. Wood Company, was a good place to stop when hungry. Not far away, the old town square, a large rock would give you a visit.

Wallace, and his son Roy, who has a beautiful new home on North Farmington Road, made the cement blocks for the Grace House, now the Elk's Lodge.

The Grace House was a hotel operated by B. F. Grace and the rates were the same as those of the Owen House. Public dances were given on the third floor and children were put to bed in one of the rooms.

One mile down Grand River at Orchard Lake Road was the Power House. The building was known as the Power House and large steam generators with huge wheels made electricity for the D. U. R. All the cars stopped in front of the power plant and had a large cold storage place next to their house on Grand River.

One mile down Grand River at the junction, the place where we changed cars for the Lake-Sault, Winter Haven, was the Power House. The building was known as the Power House and large steam generators with huge wheels made electricity for the D. U. R. All the cars stopped in front of the power plant and had a large cold storage place next to their house on Grand River.

Frank White, well liked during his years of business here, ran a grocery store where the City Hall is now. His was a typical old-time grocery. The floor was lighted, where the aroma of coffee from the big grinder blended with the smells of molasses, kerosene and crackers in barrels. In the winter, the store had the cheerful red glow of firelight through the glassless windows of a cold winter.

Much of the merchandise such as lard, butter and candy came in wooden pails. Fruits and vegetables were either in season, dried or of the basement storage type. Nothing fresh was being received from Florida or California.

Johnson's Market is in the building that was occupied by the Farmington Exchange Bank. paid up \$30,000, responsibility \$100,000—and the vault could have been opened with a large fire cracker. At least it didn't look like the massive vaults of today. Proprietors and owners were P. J. Decker, S. D. Johnson, F. M. Warriner, M. B. Pierce, G. G. Collins, Mary E. Sprague and Clinton Wilbur.

(Continued Next Week)

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

15 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 15, 1915

Red Cross Drive

Final details for conducting the Red Cross War Fund Drive in Farmington are now completed under the direction of Mrs. Joseph DeVriendt, local chairman.

The Drive is scheduled to be held this week and all contributions must be submitted to County Headquarters by March 15. This allows less time for the drive than former years and means that everyone will have to work that much harder to accomplish the task.

The national quota is set at \$200,000 and the local quota is \$100,000 and the Farmington residents are asked to contribute \$12,000.

It is suggested that wherever possible, persons vote during the day to avoid waiting in line during the evening hours.

The Farmington Exchange Bank is the winning column in the big way last Friday night by soundly whipping Holly 78 to 29.

Captain Dick Tupper walked away with high point honors by scoring 16. Teammates Dick Lounsbury and Dave Dirmeyer each finished with 11.

Former Lines Down

The winter storm of the year

unexpectedly struck Farmington

and surrounding areas Monday and Tuesday leaving large sections of the township without power or phone service.

5 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 17, 1915

Heavy Rain Expected

A record number of votes for the local election are expected to be cast next Monday, February 21, in the Bensenville Farmington Township Primary, officials predicted today.

The prediction is based on the unusually high number of new registrations added to the books plus the interest being shown in the large number of candidates.

Officially, have completed arrangements at all four voting precincts for the expected heavy turnout.

It is suggested that wherever possible, persons vote during the day to avoid waiting in line during the evening hours.

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News from Briar Hills

Kathy Kinley
MA. 6-6434

School groups have been corraling their material on the City and Suburban church. The Hatches are former members of the Nardin Park Methodist church. Even with several months of howling left, the gals are looking forward to the special banquet and have taken steps to get the ball rolling for the event. A committee for the banquet has been organized and includes Rosemary Fur, Long, Lucy Andridge, Marge and Mabel Wilson, Thompson-Brown, DuBarrett, Atlas, Benters, and Twin Pines. High single over average J. C. F. Williams, 55, Edie, Florence, Nueman and High Individual series Barb is headed by Peg Ballow.

High, 490. High Team single-Atlas, 613. High team series—Thompson-Brown, 1711. Even with several months of howling left, the gals are looking forward to the special banquet and have taken steps to get the ball rolling for the event. A committee for the banquet has been organized and includes Rosemary Fur, Long, Lucy Andridge, Marge and Mabel Wilson, Thompson-Brown, DuBarrett, Atlas, Benters, and Twin Pines. High single over average J. C. F. Williams, 55, Edie, Florence, Nueman and High Individual series Barb is headed by Peg Ballow.

The girls enjoyed an excursion to the run-down Briar Hill Women's Boys' Club. The Hill Women's Boys' Club is headed by a game and watchful eye on the young man of the house—Chip.

GET WELL bouquets go to Mrs. Marsh, mother of Beulah Hogen, and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Hogen, of Port Huron, kept the home fires burning and a watchful eye on the young man of the house—Chip.

To the Bill Sincer family we extend our sincerest sympathy in the death of Alice's father, who died Saturday in Toledo. Bill was in Chicago.

Betty Emmet was introduced to a few of our immediate neighbors at her past week at the informal luncheon at Barb's. The Emmet's came to us from quite a distance—Topeka, Kansas. We hope that John and Betty with their children Clever, 12, Craig, 9, Kevin, 5, and Kelley, 3, will enjoy their suburban living. We also extend the welcome mat to the Hedges who moved into their new home on Beaconsfield this past week. Sheldon and Mary have 3 children—Ellen, 12, Mike, 10, and Bobby 5.

Happy Birthday was sung to Darel Daggett who was 4 on Feb. 6th. She celebrated the day with a special meal for her friends among whom Kim Adam, Carol Colambito, D'Arcy General, and Holly Dodson. Darel's brother, Scott, had his turn on Sunday, Feb. 7th, to be "King for a Day." Scott was 3 on that day.

THE HATCHES were hosts Sunday for Mrs. Porter and Daughter Boly of Detroit. The Porter's brought a gift for the Primary Dept. of the Nardin Park Methodist church to the Primary Dept. of the Orchard Methodist Church of Farmington. These Sunday

Automatic GAS WATER HEATERS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS