

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 Shawwassee 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 of concrete paving (a either side of Farmington Road from Shawwassee through the Rouge Valley to a point just beyond the Ten Mile intersection. Curbing and gutters are 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 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 Mile Road a mile to the east is the only real good north-south route in all of Farmington. But here 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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RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
MICHAEL J. KILBY, Manager and Editor
CLIFTON WIRTH, Advertising Manager
JOSEPH MULLEN, News Editor
VICTOR S. HOWARD, Plant Superintendent

Public Letter Box

Newspaper Needed -

Dear Sirs:
The 1960 New March of Dimes in Oakland County was very successful. Daily reports indicate that the total will exceed the 1959 drive and, of course, that is a good thing.
However, another thing that is perhaps more important was accomplished during our campaign. We have secured the cooperation of our newspaper to inform the people of this community as to the objectives and services of The National Foundation. I refer particularly to the expanded program in the areas of crippling birth defects and arthritis and the financial 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 Hodgson
Chapter Chairman

Springland

MRS. R. E. EVERETT GR. 4-0278

The Springland Friendship Club will meet Thursday evening, Feb. 18, at the residence of Mrs. Reuben Siekas, 30850 Springland Dr. Mrs. James Watt will be co-hostess for the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mallon of Springland, Dr. accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Stoner of Dearborn spent the weekend of February 6-8 at the residence of Mrs. Reuben Siekas 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. The JPA met Tuesday, February 9 at the Alameda School. The group was under the supervision of Mr. Hallinan, physical education instructor, presented tumbler acts for the group. Jim Evans and Tom Buehler of Springland were part of the group participating.

Ray Garrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Garrison, of 36220 Springland Dr., is home from his 21-month tour in France in the Ordnance Division of the Army. During his long stay in Europe, Ray had been to 15 different countries, such as Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

Dale Shuffett Joins Maneuver

Army Pfc Dale Shuffett, 24, of 32115 Dixie Dr., Kirby, Farmington, Mich., participated with other personnel from the 33d Ordnance Company in Exercise Wiesbaden 68 at the Grafenwohr training area in southern Germany Feb. 17.

Winter Shield, an annual exercise, provides realistic training under simulated combat conditions for the 60,000 participating troops. Shuffett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mead Shuffett, 26315 Parkville, Livonia, is assigned to the company in Hanau. He entered the Army in June 1953 and arrived overseas the following November.

Troop 116 Keeps Busy Schedule

Girl Scout troop 116 have been busy lately planning a record-high to be held this spring in the Jr. High gym.

On one day, recently they had a most skating party, visited the office of the Telephone Co., worked on their sports badge, at Farmington Lakes with the help of Mr. Fred Hamlin and then visited Mrs. Guy's Bridal Shop where they were shown many gowns and were informed on how the gowns were created.

The troop is also busy sitting for their sponsor, the JCs while they release for the new season.

Do You Remember . . .



THE BILLIARD 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 billiard parlor was in the front and the billiard room was in the back. The picture was taken just east of the present barber shop below Farmington Road on Grand River. Pictured here is the school congregation in front of the pool room which was run by John Walters. Harry Adams is the man in the center. Among others identified are: Len Robinson, Wilmer Johnson, Ed Thayer, Willard Travers, Chester Rickett, 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 fire company it was decided to divide the citizens into two companies. The chief appointed the following persons to have charge of the chemicals and to be under the direct charge of Fred Pauline, Sub-Chief: H. L. Weaver, Herman Schroeder, Louis Schroeder, Glen White, J. A. Miller, W. L. Way, Nate Eisenold, Leo Gledemister, Otto Schaeper, Tim Chamberlin, George Nacker and Will Walters. The house and truck brigade to be composed of all other citizens and the Fire Chief, T. H. McGee, appointed Amos Otis to have charge of them. Everyone is expected to bring a pail, Frank H. Lee, Village Clerk.

The tin shop and telephone office of Mike and Matilda Doherty was where the telephone exchange was located. The Inter County Phone Company had succeeded the Citizens' Phone Company of Northville and the telephone exchange was located in the house. The telephone exchange was located in the house. The telephone exchange was located in the house.

One mile down Grand River in Orchard Lake Road was the Junction, the place where one changed cars for the lakes and Pontiac. The LaSalle, Winery building was known as the "Pond" and was used for storing wine. The LaSalle, Winery building was known as the "Pond" and was used for storing wine.

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by D. K. Smith's Farmington Store. Mr. Smith did a good business in home furnishings and, as a side line, he sold coal into the yard. Coal was the fuel used in most homes. A number of teams and sleighs were required to make deliveries to Mr. Otis' customers. Wallace Hatten's woodworking shop was where the Plymouth Garage is located. The wood shop was operated by a gas line engine that was exhausted outside the building and made a lot of noise. Wood products such as wagon boxes were made here and Wallace built many silos on surrounding farms. 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 Ricks' Lodge.

The Grace House was a hotel operated by B. 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. Slope's or Finney's Orchestra played and proper decorum was enforced by Arthur Lamb or George Nacker acting as floor manager.

J. E. Phelps' Pool Parlor was in the brick building where the new Seckay Men's Shop and Dr. M. L. Hutton's office are located. Playing pool was a popular pastime but pool rooms were frowned upon by certain people. Paints and brushes were a side line and the only products mentioned in the Phelps' ads.

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News from Briar Hills

Kathy Kinley
MA. 6-6434

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The trio enjoyed an excursion to the Keys and arrived back in our Winter Land Monday. While away, Mary's folks, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Pettit of Port Huron, kept the home fires burning and a watchful eye on the young man of the house.

GET WELL bouquets go to Mrs. Jarab, mother of Benita Hoge, Benita's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jarab, emigrated last spring from Chester, England and are presently making their home with their daughter and son-in-law. We also say, "get well quick" to Kay Norton, Benita's friend, in the Bill Alice's father who died Sat. in Toledo. Burial was in Chicago.

Betty Emmet was introduced to a few of her immediate neighbors this past week at an informal luncheon at Barb Higgins. The Emmets came to us from quite a distance from Farmington, Y. to be exact. We hope that John and Betty with their children Clover 12, Craig 9, Kevin 5, and Kelly 4, will enjoy Detroit suburban living. We also extend the welcome mat to the Hedges who moved into their new home on Beaconsfield, Sheldon and Mary have 3 children—Ellen 12, Mike 10, and Bobby 5.

Happy Birthday was sung to David Daggett who was 4 on Feb. 10. She celebrated the day with a luncheon for some of her friends among whom were Kim Adams, Carol Ambrosio, D'Arcy General, and Holly Dodson. David's brother, Scott, had his turn on Sunday, Feb. 17, to be "King for a Day." Scott was 3 on that day.

THE HATCHES were hosts Sunday for Mrs. Fred and Daughter Betty of Detroit. The Potters brought greetings from the Primary Dept. of the Nardin Park Methodist church to the Primary Dept. of the Orchard Methodist Church of Farmington. These Sunday

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