

Downtown Business Owners Must Act Now

The wheels are now turning rapidly to get construction of a new municipal center building for the City of Farmington under construction, thanks to a Federal grant received to underwrite half the cost.

Since a stipulation goes with the grant that the building be completed as quickly as possible, the target date which has been set for having all work done on the building occupied is one year hence. The new municipal building should be a big asset to the community and particularly the downtown business district.

But, it also presents a problem and that is what is to be done with the building where city offices are now located. It is located in the midst of an area in the downtown business section where redevelopment is badly needed and long past due—the north-side of Grand River Ave. east of Farmington Road.

There is no adequate parking area for this quadrant of the downtown business district and no easily accessible means of getting to the back of stores in this block even if there were. In this stretch on main-street downtown there are four or more vacant buildings showing their age and lack of use more each year. It's detrimental to the whole downtown business district.

A starting point in an effort to revitalize this side of the street would be to get the old city hall building torn down and provide an access to the rear of the other buildings at this point. This would be of course have to be followed with some store remodeling, both inside and out

and improvements in areas at the rear of the stores. Acquiring at least two to three homes immediately to the north to provide the parking area that would be needed would more than likely also be necessary.

All of this wouldn't be able to be accomplished at once but at least a start could and should be made. With vacation of the city hall now less than a year away, more delaying is not going to be possible. Very soon now our city fathers are going to have to decide how they are going to dispose of this building.

We can think of very little good commercial use the building might have but indications are strong that a public sale is contemplated. The money that the city would get if a buyer could be found might come in handy right now, but, looking at it long-range, disposal of the building to provide a better use of the rear of other buildings in the block appears to us to be a better plan.

Each and every businessman or owner of any building in the downtown commercial district should have a keen interest in this matter. The empty stores and deterioration which is being allowed to continue on this side of the street has an adverse effect on the whole downtown business district. There is no time for delay by owners or operators of downtown business establishments in getting to city officials with a strong appeal for demolition rather than public sale of the city hall.

Six months from now or even three months from now may be too late.

What's Your Reaction to the Word 'Profits'?

What is your reaction when you hear the word "profits"? A lot is being said and written about this little seven letter word these days and a great deal of what is being said deserves each and every citizen's objective consideration.

We would like to pass along to you a few thoughts from a presentation made recently by Robert C. Dunlop, president of the State Oil Co., on this subject.

"Profits are not only an inducement to risk savings in the face of uncertainty, but they are the reward for having succeeded. Rising profits signal the need for expansion and attract capital. Declining profits signal the need for capital. Profits are, of themselves, the primary source of venture capital for modernization, expansion and the creation of new enterprises," Dunlop said.

He cites four basic reasons for the profit squeeze which for so many companies and corporations are experiencing today that is causing a slowdown in

the forward momentum of our economy. These are: (1) Foreign competition and imports putting a ceiling on prices that can be obtained. (2) Wage increases far exceeding gains in productivity. (3) Controls exercised over business and industry by the regulatory agencies of government and the constant threat of new legislation. (4) A rise in level of taxation on business profits.

Sales and investments by corporations in the United States have grown steadily less profitable over the past 15 years and in the past ten years investment in our economy has failed to keep pace with the growth of population, Dunlop emphasizes.

Has "profits" in the minds of many become a dirty word as Mr. Eisenhower has said or is it really a greater amount of business profits that is needed to get our economy moving again at a fast and steady pace instead of by spurts and jerks? It is a question we all should be giving a lot of serious thought.

Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 13, 1947

FHS Beats Trojans
Farmington High School's 1947 football team kept its winning ways last Friday afternoon by defeating Clarenceville's Elmore, 26-6, in their annual inter-area classic.

The possibility of building an addition onto the Farmington Township Hall, to serve as a memorial to the young men of our community who gave their lives in World War II, was brought before the Farmington City Commission at their regular meeting, Wednesday evening by Commissioner Fred Hagnall.

Electrified
A total of 138 farms in Farmington Township are now being served with rural electricity, officials of the Detroit Edison Company announced this week.

Special Election
Saturday, December 6, has been designated by the Board of Education of the Farmington Township School District as the date for the special election called for the purpose of securing funds in order to build additional school buildings in the District.

New School Plans
But of the three proposed school units for the Farmington Township School District came under consideration by the Board of Education last week as the architect's rendering of an elementary school building in the Noble-William Grace area was submitted.

10 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 13, 1952

Transfer Asked
An application is being filed by the Farmington School District with the Michigan Finance Commission requesting permission to transfer surplus monies from the 1948 debt fund to the building and site fund for the purpose of equipping the new

high school building.

Going Up Fast
The exterior walls of the new Clarenceville High School building are now well under construction and promises continuous toward an early completion date. Occupancy for the new high school is expected by the fall of 1953.

Close Season
Both Farmington and Clarenceville high schools brought down the curtain on grid action last week as pre-season honors were bestowed on the combatants by coaches in their respective leagues. The Clarenceville Trojans' campaign at the head of the Inter-Lakes League. The Conference football trophy came to Farmington along with all-league honors for several of its grid players. Clarenceville, too, displayed power in their league and gave evidence of a growing contender.

Corps to Meet
A special meeting of the Farmington Ground Observation Corps will be held Tuesday evening, November 18, at the Farmington Town Hall, 8 p.m.

5 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 14, 1957

Submit Plan
An industrial zone plan was submitted to the Township Board Tuesday night by the Planning Board. The plan has been under study for two years and has been reported by the board several times.

Robert Harris, a former member of the Township Board of Review, was named to that post Tuesday night by the Township Board. He also had served a term as Township Trustee.

Propose Expressway
A proposed expressway route through Farmington will be under construction within the next five years if plans now under consideration by the State Highway Commission materialize. The newly proposed route

would be an extension of the Northwestern Highway westward approximately along the 11 Mile Road.

Sidewalks
Sidewalks along Sidewassee were under construction last week along the north side from Farmington Road east to Town Hall Road. Work is expected to be completed by the first snow fall.

Falcons Edge Trojans
The Farmington High School football team closed out their 1957 campaign with a 13-7 victory over neighborhood rivals, the Clarenceville Trojans. Farmington posted a 5-2 win-loss record for the season.

Geoffrey C. Fox Taking Navy Basic

Geoffrey C. Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey P. Fox, 2227 Violet Ave., Farmington, is undergoing nine weeks of basic recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Mich.

The indoctrination to Navy consists of physical fitness drills, military drills, basic military law, customs and etiquette of the naval service, swimming and survival first aid and basic shipboard routine.

During the training, recruits receive tests and interviews which determine future training and assignments in the Navy.

Will Attend U of M Real Estate Session

Clarence Burek of 2829 Herndonwood in Farmington is among the men responsible for teaching real estate law in the University of Michigan's state-wide Certificate Program in Real Estate who will attend an instructor's conference at the University on Saturday, November 17. More than 20 Michigan cities will be represented at the conference and the



GOLDEN WEDDING anniversary celebrants last week were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Goetz of 2141 S. 24th St. The couple were featured in an anniversary party by relatives and friends last Saturday evening, November 10.

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

No Business Site Can Offer Intrinsic Value of Town Hall

To the Editor:
Some time ago, an article in one of the Detroit newspapers pointed out the fact that some things are necessary besides pavements and shopping centers to provide a decent place to live. There should also be places of beauty and recreation, along with the preservation of those things which lend character to one's community heritage, which brings me to Farmington's Town Hall.

Recently there has been much discussion regarding the fate, cash value, ownership, possible use and state of deterioration. My view favors there being a town hall, after all, I consider it an important part of Farmington and associate it with many good times and people.

The value, ownership and future use are closely linked with it's chance for survival. Fan-

Slip Chance

Dear Sir:
The City of Farmington has apparently revived the inanity of making "Civil Defense" plans intended to instruct Farmington residents in the art of survival in a nuclear war. As a physicist conversant with nuclear energy, I might state that the approximate fate of Farmington residents in the event that one 20-megaton bomb were dropped in the vicinity of the Ford Rouge plant, is implicitly understood that at least two-thirds of the people in Detroit and Dearborn at that time would be dead within half an hour.

In Farmington, everyone who turned to look at the explosion would be permanently blinded. Anyone in the open would suffer third-degree burns, and the change for medical aid. Eighty seconds after the blast, winds of 100 to 150 mph would cause buildings, a fire storm would rage for hours, robbing oxygen from many basement shelters and suffocating the occupants. These in the basement of a strong building might survive the blast and firestorm, but in the event of a ground burst the fallout within the first half-hour would mean almost certain death. Those in a totally underground shelter would not be afflicted with radiation sickness until about 24 hours had passed. If the shelter were equipped with 30-day provisions, the occupants might survive.

The above estimate is a conservative one, and assumes one bomb, one attack. It ignores the possible use of "dirty" bombs. Yet the seriousness of the prognosis should impress upon Farmington residents the only real "Civil Defense" we have: laying aside personal greed and cooperating with the state and nation in the pursuit of a vigorous foreign policy and an imaginative domestic program in order to prevent a nuclear war from ever occurring.

Yours truly,
Edward C. McElroy, Ph.D.
Nearly one fourth of the weight of the U. S. space capsule which soared on its three-orbit trip last February, was according to an official of the company which made the capsule.

Social Studies Report Given

Social studies teachers, administrators and school board members from the school district heard a progress report on the Oakland County Social Studies Curriculum Project recently.

Work done thus far on the project was explained and displayed.

Mrs. Sally Holmes, sixth grade teacher from Farmington, is one of eight Oakland County teachers assigned to work with Dr. Platt to revitalize the social studies curriculum.

The teacher group began the project to develop content and sequence in the social studies curriculum. The target date for completion of their work is the end of the fall semester.

Material developed in the field of Western civilization has already been tested in Farmington classrooms.

Following a report by Dr. Platt, visitors watched a 30 minute demonstration of materials developed by project teachers. Maps, bulletins, charts, and other teaching aids were displayed. The report was concluded with a panel discussion by project teachers and classroom teachers who have used the new curriculum material.

School districts contributing to the social science project are Farmington, Southfield, Oxford, Clarenceville, Pontiac, Hazel Park, and Huron Valley.

Another gasoline station or discount house, would not enhance the City Park at the west end of the triangle or the surrounding neighborhood. Farmington City and Township and the Masonic Lodge with their respective percentages of ownership, which represented only a few hundred dollars each, at the time the building was constructed, should decide that the building is the real owner and any changes be determined by them.

In the past it wasn't thought necessary that constant use, the only reason for having a town hall, but today there must be organizations needing such a central place for meetings. Just a place for older people to meet, visit and play cards, could be reason enough for meeting the building for years.

The floors seem solid and there are no signs of the walls crumbling down after the first eighty years, so I think it should remain as a symbol of a small town, the real reason that many people have moved to our fair city. Farmington should capitalize in a business way, a more friendly small town atmosphere and provide it with some mark of distinction, such as this old land mark.

Hayley Walters.

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YOUR PHARMACIST SPEAKS

By: **JOHN D. SCHMALZ, R.Ph.**

The discovery of penicillin was one of those strange, magical accidents quite common in the world of science. A vagrant spore carried out of nowhere on air currents settled on a plate of penicillium culture being studied by bacteriologist Alexander Fleming in 1928.

The mold left by the mysterious spore intrigued Fleming less than a strange halo surrounding the mold itself. Study revealed that within this ring-like halo all germs were destroyed.

It wasn't until 1941 that others managed to produce enough concentrated penicillin to save the life of a first patient was concerned, but sufficient to disclose the astounding potential of the new drug.

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In Fort Hood Army Exercise

Army PFC William A. Campbell, of Farmington, recently participated in Exercise THREE PATRIOTS, a United States Strike Command joint Army-Air Force maneuver, at Fort Hood, Tex.

The exercise, which pitted members of the 1st and 2d Armored Divisions against each other, was designed to train Army and Air Force units in combined operations stressing team play, speed and flexibility and the development of maximum firepower.

CAMPBELL, a rifleman in Company B of the 2d Armored Division's 51st Infantry at the Fort, entered the Army in 1961, did complete basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

The 20-year-old soldier, of 30505 Burbank, was employed by Mayfair Television, Farmington, before entering the Army.

His father is Marlin Russell of 30509 Burbank, in Farmington.

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Hakemian Appointed At Brokerage House

Sam C. Hakemian of Farmington has been appointed broker consultant at the Detroit brokerage office of Joyner Lainsdale of Detroit. He is married to the former Joyce Lainsdale of Detroit. They have a daughter, Janice, 6, and make their home at 2327 Frederick Street.

He will work with independent general insurance men

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