

# New Facts Unveiled About Old Town Hall

The story of Farmington's Town Hall has a new chapter. Following publication of the picture feature in January, a sly visitor appeared one afternoon at the Farmington Enterprise office. His request: 20 copies of the preceding week's issue (now completely sold out). His name: Whitney Prall, grandson of Johnson S. Prall builder of the town hall. A local point of much current controversy. Mr. Prall's discovery has brought to light some new aspects of Town Hall history.

Mr. Prall, 80 years old February 28, lives in Pontiac with his wife. Both are active in the Oakwood Community Library, with headquarters in the old Governor Winter Mansion. Both are keenly interested in the future in Farmington regarding Farmington's only architecturally significant public building.

The name Prall rings silent notes to persons interested in the 1900 Pontiac Library. The Prall family was a family of craftsmen: architects, bricklayers, carpenters; the Prall

brothers designed and built a number of public and private buildings in Pontiac after 1860.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lindberth at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Councillor

Brotheron, Thayer, present.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Dinan, Acting City Clerk, City Attorney

Chief DeWitt, City Clerk.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion by Brotheron, supported by Peterson, that the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 1963, be approved as published. Motion carried, all ayes.

Discussion: County Airport Site, Future Development of Facility.

Mr. DeS. Hanlin, Representative, Oakland County Board of Commissioners, reported to the City Council on the status of the proposed County airport known as the Allen Airport. He emphasized the need for encouragement of industrial growth in the County to encourage industrial growth in the County should be a determining factor of the County's future development.

The Farmington Town Hall was just about the last building erected by my grandfather," said Mr. Prall in recalling the circumstances of the time. [Best by the same source] "At that time, the zoning map was changed, affecting the entire building after the Civil War. Mr. Prall, a good Baptist and a determined man," continued with his contract and with "meager a crew" as possible began work on the Town Hall in 1856 and completed that year.

Much of Prall can be seen in the architecture of the Town Hall. "Most of my grandfather's buildings had the Mansard roof accented by dormers and finely detailed architectural features," said Mr. Prall.

The finely detailed wood turnings were the product of well-known wood shop which Johnson Prall operated, Prall's son, Whitney, apparently identified them.

"My grandfather got his ideas from books in a large library he kept in his attic," said the grandson, "just like most all builders did."

He had considered whether the cornerstone bearing Prall's name is on the corner of the Town Hall at all. Mr. Prall had an answer! It seems that vandals had damaged or removed a cornerstone from some earlier Prall building, and instead of replacing it, he had it placed on Johnson's last building he wanted to make sure that the stone bearing his name would be out of reach.

The Farmington Historical Society has made an initial contact with Mr. Prall. The society plans to ask the general public to contribute of the organization. Perhaps another chapter to the growing Town Hall story can be added then.

Army Training Him For Communications

Pvt. Robert D. Parks, son of Mrs. Oleta Parks, 26350 Canfield, Farmington, has been assigned to Company A, 15th Battalion, 4th Training Regiment at Fort Jackson for specialist training.

He is attending the Field Course and will be trained for duty in field communications. Training emphasis during the eight week course will be placed on field telephone procedures and operation of the field switchboard. He will learn the technique of laying telephone lines on overhead wire. Much of the work will consist of practical exercises in the field.

Some snails sing. Others are equipped with 50,000 teeth. A few sing at houses. A few curl up in their shells for a four-year sleep. One species—Strombus pugilis—strikes nasty blows with its foot.

End Promises! Promises! Promises!

## FOR FARMINGTON'S FUTURE Elect the DEMOCRATIC Team

Supervisor: HAROLD E. SHPIECE

Treasurer: MARIE T. MUTSCHALL

Trustee: MARTIN E. GLUCKSTEIN

Trustee: HARRY E. ZUCHLINSKI

Justice of the Peace: GERALD A. FREEDMAN

Board of Review: JAMES B. GUINAN

Vote Monday, April 1

(Pd. Ad.)

## City Of Farmington Council Proceedings

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Farmington was held on March 18, 1963.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lindberth at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Councillor

Brotheron, Thayer, present.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Dinan, Acting City Clerk, City Attorney

Chief DeWitt, City Clerk.

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Vote Monday, April 1

(Pd. Ad.)

80% of contract in the amount of \$500.00 for construction of Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Peterson, Thayer, Brotheron, Lindberth, Forrest.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

11 Estimating Farino Excavating Company Lakewood Storm Sewer in the amount of \$81,000.00.

Motion by Brotheron, supported by Thayer, to approve payment. Is it estimated payment for excavating company for construction of Lakewood Storm Sewer in the amount of \$81,000.00.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Brotheron, Lindberth, Peterson, Thayer.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

12 Estimating Adjustment

Motion by Peterson, supported by Thayer, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried, all ayes.

Motion adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

ROBERT B. LINDBERTH, Mayor

INZER R. BUCK, Acting Clerk

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## PHENEY MUNICIPAL JUDGE

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28 years Practicing Attorney. 17 years practice in City of Farmington.

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Endorsed by both incumbent Judges.

Your Support at the Polls on April 1, 1963 Respectfully Solicited

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(Pd. Ad.)

## A MESSAGE TO THE VOTERS OF FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP

We, the undersigned, being practicing attorneys in the Wayne-Oakland area, believe that Gerald A. Freedman has the ability, temperament and integrity necessary to the fair and impartial administration of justice.

He has achieved an outstanding record in the trial of civil cases in Justice Courts throughout the suburban area and has the experience and qualifications necessary for prudent judicial ability.

Most important of all, his experience has nurtured a sympathetic understanding of the problems and needs of the people; and, if elected, he will judge each case in a compassionate manner commensurate with sound justice.

We, therefore, urge you to support GERALD A. FREEDMAN for JUSTICE OF THE PEACE on Monday, APRIL 1, 1963.

★ ★ ★

Michael J. Hand

Stuart D. Orman

Seth Barsky

Irving August

Lawrence S. Cohen

Daniel Cooper

Gilbert M. Frimet

Gerald E. Granadier

David Kaufman

Daniel N. Pevos

Albert J. Silber

Harvey F. Tennen

Calvin Keys

James P. Lawson

Michael J. Kelly

Edwin Bean

H. S. Avrin

Robert B. Cohen

William M. Eilmann

Marvin F. Frankel

Robert N. Gaberman

J. Leonard Hyman

Raymond L. Krell

Milton S. Landau

Ralph Sosin

C. Robert Wartell

Gerald Tuchow

Vincent J. Brennan

Arthur J. Cole

Lawrence Altman

Henry Baskin

Roger E. Craig

Marvin F. Frankel

Robert Goren

Norman Hyman

Sheldon Otis

Harold E. Shpice

Manuel L. Papista

R. Marie Wheeler

Leonard Portnoy

★ ★ ★

## ELECT GERALD A. FREEDMAN DEMOCRAT

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP

April 1, 1963

-Paid Political Advertisement