

**The Farmington Enterprise**  
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# In Our Opinion . . .

## Let's Get the Background Facts First

Court action which was started against the city of Farmington last week on the Council's recent decision to acquire the access route east of the Van Furniture Store downtown was disturbing to us.

Robert Walker, a relative newcomer to the community, undoubtedly was sincere in his decision to start such action to prevent city-at-large monies from being spent this way. But, we just don't feel that he had all the background facts before making his decision to do so.

Seven or eight years ago downtown Farmington was almost dead on its feet. The stores to the west of the downtown were springing up all over the place. The core business district was in a state of decay and the personal and real property taxes that the business district in a growing residential community such as ours should have been paying was just not being provided. Without the stores to buy things from, which new residents wanted and needed, they were going outside the community to get them.

Development of the Farmington Plaza and Bel-Aire Shopping Centers and the loss of the downtown business section was continuing to slip downward faster and faster.

A group of local businessmen and landowners decided to take a bold gamble in an attempt to revive downtown business section. Pooling their own resources they then came to the city asking for help in developing a good sized off-street parking area and a downtown shopping center.

Money and time were both very short

# Bike Problem Rests With Parents

Both the City and Township police departments are being "plagued" with bicycle problems.

There are actually two problems. One has to do with the careless and dangerous manner in which many young boys and girls in the community are riding their bikes and the other a problem with bicycle thefts.

Police feel that the problem with thefts could be curtailed if the parents of boys and girls would only get them licensed with their departments. This might be true but we feel that the value of teaching boys and girls the value of their bikes and the importance of looking after them would be even more beneficial.

We can't recall any boys or girls in our childhood days ever having their bikes stolen. It was a poor neighborhood we came from and all in our neighborhood who had bikes looked upon them as very prized possessions. We kept a very close eye on them when we were out and saw that they were locked and put away when we were not using them.

It was natural that we looked at them as prize possessions because we did not have them as easily. As almost a year of saving from money we earned doing odd jobs to get our first bike and it was a used one!

As for the safety problem, passage of bike operating regulations such as the city is, now working on, should be helpful but we would doubt that they will

# Looking Back in the Files

**5 Years Ago**  
SEPTEMBER 25, 1953  
Purchase Land  
The City of Farmington this week acquired nearly an acre of land in the heart of the downtown business section for \$25,000. Located across from the Food Fair Market on Harrison Road, the land will be used to provide additional off-street parking for Farmington shoppers.

**Voter Campaign**  
The Farmington League of Subdivision Association has launched a week-long campaign to boost voter registration in the Township prior to the coming election in November. At a meeting in Farmington, Township voters will go to the polls to decide whether to close the Township to hunting.

**City Opponents**  
Opponents of changing the Township government into a city have been making their case to neighboring Oak Park, which has made such a move, and cited crowding, rapidly increasing taxes and an influx of industry as reasons which would be expected under the proposal.

**10 Years Ago**  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1953  
Big Game Hunting  
There was considerable excitement last Friday at the Rainbow Park Motel after an employee, Alvin Grant of Farmington Road, reported a huge snake near one of the cabins. A resident of the motel, Donald Cox, attempted to capture the snake, later identified as a Boa Constrictor, but the reptile put up such a tremendous struggle he had to kill it. Owner of the motel, T. V. Kefauver, said the snake probably escaped from one of his transients who feared reporting the incident would create a panic.

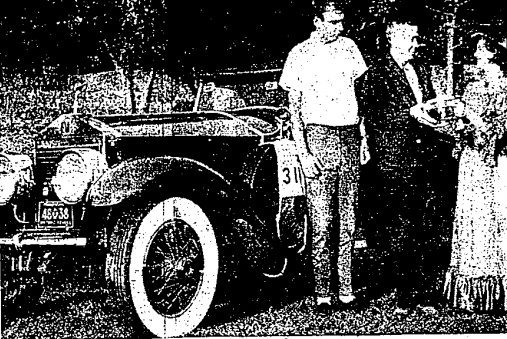
**100th Anniversary**  
The Farmington Universalist Church, the oldest house of worship in the community, will celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary this Sunday and will kick-off a week-long observance.

**City Council Action**  
Five new ordinances and two resolutions were passed by the City Council in one of its long sessions of the year Monday. The new ordinances cover a wide variety of subjects.

**15 Years Ago**  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1948  
Parochial School  
Classes are being conducted for the first time this year in the newly completed Our Lady of Sorrows School, located at the intersection of Power and Shaw roads. The school formerly held classes in the building on Grand River just east of Lakeway.

**FBS Blanks Plymouth**  
The Farmington High School football team trounced the Plymouth eleven in the season opener for both schools last Friday night, 44-0. Falcon quarterback Fred McLean led the scoring attack with three touchdowns and Bud Bryant accounted for two of the touchdowns. A pass play from McLean who also connected with another aerial TD.

**Speed Control Zone**  
The Farmington City Commission has petitioned the State Highway Department for permission to establish a speed control zone on the Grand River Cut-Off between Gill Road and Farmington Road.



S. L. STENSLAND of Farmington received a silver bowl as his trophy when his fully restored 1917-1925 era Ford Model T won second place at the Greenfield Village Old Car Festival Sept. 14. Grand Champion in its class, cars of the 1917-1925 era, was the 1924 Packard Touring driven by Vito S. Banks of Harper Woods. Above are Mr. Stensland, his son, Larry, and Villager, Connie Coombes.

# Home In Old Homestead

**MARY CHECKETS**  
Phone 474-5705

My goodness, how time flies! Weren't we just kids? Labor Day weekend is over and fall has officially arrived. Mr. J. Frost soon will be busy as a bee creating autumn with his pumpkins and pumpkins will be doing their best to scare folks - old and young - with their groans and scowls. The stores are already drifting through the fall evening air; apple cider and doughnuts; football games, crisp weather and autumn days. What a delightful and beautiful season to look forward to!

**HOMESTEAD** families, relatives and neighbors have been busy these past two weeks helping some of the young fry in the neighborhood celebrate their birthdays. Birthday cakes disappeared rapidly and presents were unwrapped quicker than they were wrapped by.

Sue Nankervis, Russ and Jean's daughter, who turned 8 years old on Monday, Sept. 9.

Marilyn Hukula, Jack and June's daughter, who turned 10 on Sept. 10.

Anne Higgins, Quakerstown, became 8 years of age on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Mary Jo and Linda Larson kept their parents busy celebrating their respective birthdays. Mary Jo turned 13 years old on Sept. 15 and Linda turned 4 years old a week later on Sunday, Sept. 22.

**BETTY BOUFFARD** observed her 5th birthday quietly on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Steve Lorenz became 11 years 4 days on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Happy Birthday to all.

The first meeting of the 1953-54 year for the Longacre PTA will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, in the multipurpose room of the school. The Longacre PTA again this year is sponsoring a weekly class in conversational French which will be open to all children in the Farmington School District. The class will start this coming Saturday, Sept. 28. For further information please call Mrs. Margaret Kofner at 474-5705.

**A FEW OPENINGS** are available in the PTA bowling league which bowls on Wednesday morning at Farmington Lanes from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Free baby bottles and bowling instructions will be provided. If anyone is interested, the Farmington Lanes should be contacted.

Neighbors, friends and residents of Old Homestead are invited to visit with them and their family to extend to Alan and Marguerite Dale and their family their sympathy and condolences on the recent and sudden loss of Marguerite's father, Mr. John Mullins of Grosse Pointe, Sept. 14. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning from the Verheyden Funeral Home at Mack and Outer Drive.

**WALT AND RUTH WEIR** of Lyman Road just returned from a 13-day, 5,700-mile motor trip through the Northwest Canadian Rockies. Among some of the parks visited were Banff, Jasper, Glacier and Lake Louise.

The weather wasn't the most cooperative critter on their trip (it was mostly on the cool and cloudy side) but it wasn't so bad that it prevented them from seeing lots of wild life (especially a huge bear they found looking in their car window one morning about 5:30 a.m. upon awakening). They also saw a cold mountain lake's streams, seeing beaver, elk, moose, basking through the trees. All, except in their turn, made their trip a most memorable one for the Weirs.

They took several rolls of pictures, which they're still sorting and arranging in containers, while in the Rockies. They left for home just prior to the snowfalls starting now in the mountains.

# West Point Park News

**Miss L. A. Ault** GR. 4-4294

Sunshine Sisters held a Potluck Luncheon at the home of a former neighbor, Mrs. Irene Tallman, in Detroit about sixteen participated. The next Sunshine meeting will be held in the Neighborhood Sunday School room at 2 p.m., Wednesday, October 2.

Honoring the graduation of their daughter, Mrs. Robert Conrad, from Nurses' Training at Harper Hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Willet entertained at their home on Mayfield Ave. on Sunday, Sept. 19. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad will soon be moving to Mt. Pleasant.

**JOHN VARHOL** of Shady-side Ave. has returned home from a vacation visit with relatives in Chicago.

Mrs. Edna Vance, Mayfield Ave., is visiting relatives in Toledo.

Jim Muir of Shady-side Ave. is expected to leave for the U.S. Army about October 1.

Fred Kanski, Jr., of Osmus Ave., one of last year's Clarenceville High graduates, has enrolled at Lawrence Tech.

Stanley Chavey, who recently underwent surgery at St. Mary Hospital, has returned to his home on Mayfield Ave. and is convalescing satisfactorily.

Virgil Houz, Mayfield Ave., is convalescing from surgery recently underwent at one of the local hospitals.

The Hobby Club met as usual at the Reddy home on Shady-side Ave., Thursday afternoon, Oct. 2. Tom Lawrence, Hubbard Ave., has been confined to his home with a foot injury.

MRS. EULA MAE KNIPPLE of Farmington Rd., who gained much publicity a few months ago because of a cat-stealing mix she had created, reports that her product will be going on the market within a few weeks.

The Howard Middlewoods of Farmington Rd. have been vacationing off and on at their cabin in northern Michigan and plan to enjoy it more during the hunting season.

A yellow truck from Goodwill Industries of Detroit, collects usable, repairable, household discards in the Farmington and West Point Park areas every Tuesday and most Wednesdays.

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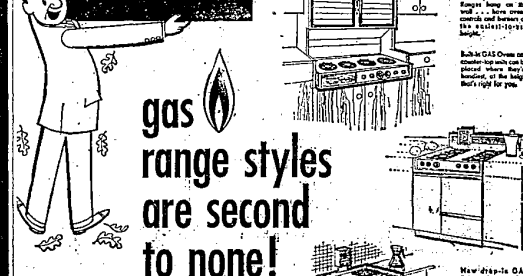
# At Massanutten Military Academy

Steven William Abele, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Abele, 28857 Kendallwood Drive, was among the nearly 350 students who reported yesterday at the opening of the 6th Academic Year of The Massanutten Military Academy, located in the Shenandoah Valley at Woodstock, Va.

Col. Robert J. Benchoff, Headmaster, announced that Cadet Abele has enrolled in the General Academic Course, which provides an intensive and personalized program in preparation for college admission.

# Big Autumn SALE

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