

The Farmington Enterprise

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RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND PUBLISHER	MICHAEL J. KILEY MANAGER - EDITOR	WINONA WOODS ASST. MANAGER - BUSINESS
THOMAS F. ISLEY NEWS EDITOR	DONALD R. STEWART ADVERTISING MANAGER	VICTOR HOWARD PLANT SUPERINTENDENT

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In Our Opinion . . .

A Moratorium on Re-Zoning for Apartments

Let's declare a moratorium on more re-zoning of property for apartments until some more concrete and factual information can be obtained to be used as guidelines for this type of re-zoning in the future.

We are sure that many would tell us that this is totally unfair and unjust to someone wishing to develop the property that he owns. Our only counter-statement to this would be that we feel it equally unfair to present property owners to keep re-zoning more and more parcels of land for apartments if the end result is going to be that it will be detrimental to the community as a whole.

Right now there are highly conflicting reports being given as to what the present and future demand will be for apartments. Some reports are that the saturation point is near to being reached, while others indicate that the demand for apartments is becoming greater and greater.

We are sure that few would not agree with us that low rent types of apartment developments would not be good for Farmington, even though there is a big demand for housing in the \$65 to \$100 price range in this area right now. The type of single family homes that have been and are continuing to be built in Farmington right now, only the high type of apartment units such as Riven Glen and Kingslane which we have in the city now can be an asset rather than a detriment to our community. Even these high class apartment units could prove detrimental, however, if more apartments than are needed are built and these apartments could be kept only half filled.

Right now in both the City and Town-

Peace on Earth—Good Will Toward Men

At this the Christmas season anyone who half tries can't help but be joyous. Even the spirits of those families who are presently in need are lifted by the generosity of Goodfellows and other such groups as well as their own neighbors and friends.

It is a time for each and everyone of us in our own way to give thanks and honor to our Almighty for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon us and members of our family.

"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" is heard repeatedly in song and story and these few words of peace should hold a lot of meaning for all of us and give us a real course of direction, not only at this time but throughout the year.

These words mean a lot more than just doing everything possible to keep away from violence and bloodshed in international wars. They call for a spirit of friendliness and cooperation among all men and not just between nations.

We have got to strive to be more friendly and understanding with our fellow workers and neighbors. And, even beyond this, we have got to learn to live in peace with people of all nationalities and creeds in our own country as well as abroad.

It is a time for us to try to understand that sharing our prosperity with others who are in need of help through no fault of their own is not just a virtue to be practiced at Christmas-time but throughout the year.

We must willingly contribute to help those who are unemployed and can't find work and also the physically and mentally ill of our state and nation. If it takes higher taxes to accomplish this, then we must be willing to give up some of our luxuries to pay these higher taxes.

Generosity goes far beyond just buying a Goodfellow paper once a year or dropping some change into the Salvation Army canisters now and then.

The words "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" should be repeated often by each and everyone of us throughout the entire year and not just at Christmas-time.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago DECEMBER 25, 1953 Polio Shots Over 200 inoculations were given at a polio clinic held last week at the Bond Elementary School.	10 Years Ago DECEMBER 24, 1953 House Movers The City of Farmington has drafted an ordinance which will restrict the moving of houses onto vacant lots in the City unless, in the eyes of the Council members, the house conforms with surrounding area homes and will not act to down grade the neighborhood.	15 Years Ago DECEMBER 23, 1948 Residents of Farmington Residents of Farmington appeared at the Township Board meeting last week and registered strong protest to the erection of a trailer camp along 13 Mile Road. A petition signed by some 200 residents in the area was submitted to the Board opposing the trailer park. The Board indicated it would communicate with the State Health Department in charge of licensing trailer parks, and go on record opposed to the 13 Mile Road trailer park. The Board urged homeowners in the area to also write letters to the State Health Department.
Burned Out Family Hundreds of Farmington residents responded to the plea made last week to aid the family whose home was razed by fire. Thomas and Rosemary O'Hara and their four children lost all of their possessions and the Albion street home they were renting went up in flames. The help was quick in coming and all of the family's immediate needs have been provided for by local citizens and businessmen.	Goodfellow Baskets The Farmington Goodfellows distributed food baskets to the homes of some 128 needy families in the area this week to assure that these less fortunate members of the community could enjoy the blessing of a Merry Christmas. Nearly 700 persons in the total number of 128 needy families shared the Goodfellow baskets.	Falcon Cagers Win The Farmington High School basketball team turned back a rugged Midland five last Friday night in an Inter-Lakes Conference game, 25-24, played on the losers' court.
Goodfellows' Job Done The Farmington Goodfellows this year distributed food baskets, clothing and other necessities to 140 needy families in the Farmington area.	Editorial Blast A closed meeting of the City Council which subsequently resulted in news stories appearing in the Detroit dailies and an editorial rebuff in the Enterprise gave rise this week to criticism of the press by council members. The criticism came after a flare up between the City Manager and the Chief of Police on charges of alleged lack of cooperation made by the City Manager.	Christmas Party Over 800 children and parents from the Farmington area attended the Community Christmas Party last Sunday afternoon at the Farmington High School Gymnasium. According to the joint service committee, the party was a great success complete with a visit from Santa Claus.
Parking Plan The special six-man committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the future parking needs of the downtown Farmington business district has been ready for consideration by the Council early next month. It was indicated this week by a spokesman for the committee, how best to spread out the cost of acquiring parking area and in what areas parking was most needed were the main items under study.		2917 — Michigan sent about 175,000 men into areas armed forces during World War I.

Christmas Celebrated in Many Different Manners

Though Christmas comes but once a year, there is certainly no one and only way to celebrate it. In addition to the many customs that are generally shared—lights, bells, trees, gifts, Santa, prayer, and singing—the special ways of observing the holiday are as varied and numerous as the communities and families involved.

Often the history and culture of a community is the inspiration for the way it celebrates Christmas. In other cases, the "customs" are consciously developed, in an effort to express the spirit of the season. It doesn't take long for these customs to take root and become loved, even "old-fashioned" traditions.

Volumes could be filled with an account of interesting community Christmas customs, but here are a few that are summarized below.

FEATURE OF THE CHRISTMAS season at Farmington, Va., is "Santa Claus U.S.A." Santa greets his friends here in one of his homes—away from home—since the North Pole must be considered his official residence.

The building is set against a background of pine trees, the foothills of Vermont's Green mountains. The large letters "S. C." on the chimney identify it as Santa's residence.

Carol songs are a traditional part of the holiday season in New Orleans. Many of them are held across the street from St. Louis cathedral. This historic cathedral in the French Quarter is a focal point for the community's religious observances of Christmas.

Here youthful carolers from private elementary school, La Petite Ecole, convene to sing the familiar songs, in both French and English.

Important part of the holiday season in California is the famous ceremony of "Christmas Tree Lane" at Altadena.

Huge cedar trees border a public thoroughfare in this city, and at Christmas it is transformed into "Christmas Tree Lane." The trees are lit with thousands of bulbs, turned on at dusk on Christmas Eve, and motorists celebrate the spectacle by driving slowly along the lane.

The tall, graceful cedars were brought to California by Captain Frederick J. Woodbury who, while visiting in India, saw them growing on the slopes of the Himalayas. He returned with cedar seeds, which he planted on his ranch.

In 1885, his sons transplanted the trees along what was then the principal roadway to the Woodbury ranch.

RICHMOND—City of Cambridge has been the Christmas theme for Richmond, Va., for the past five years.

Taking the cue from Colonial Williamsburg, Richmond sought to imitate the rebirth of an old-fashioned Christmas tradition by urging residents and organizations to "place an electric candle in every window."

The shopping area presents a triple candles in evergreen bases set in the median strip; from the windows of the Governor's mansion; and from the windows of the Governor's mansion.

Then there is the ceremony of the posada. For nine days the story of the Nativity and the holy family's search for shelter is acted out by church, schools, social groups and families.

And, along with all the festive and religious observances of Christmas in New Mexico, it is certain that the American contribution, jolly old Santa Claus, is well remembered.

Santa Claus Has Many Other Names

Santa, the giver of many gifts, is a man of many names too. While he is becoming all too universally known as Santa Claus, Santa or St. Nick, many European children still wait for the arrival of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas was the first of Santa's names and came from a real bishop in the fourth century, A.D. He is said to travel not by reindeer but on horseback, and wears bishop's robes.

Over the years, Santa has gained still other names. In France he's Pere Noel, in Finland Father Christmas, in Germany Kris Kringle, in Russia Father or Grandfather Frost.

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Nuclear Plant License Sought

Consumers Power Company has asked the United States Atomic Energy Commission for a permanent license for its Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant, near Chicago, on the basis that the plant has proved itself safe, efficient and reliable under AEC operating regulations.

The so-called permanent license has a life of 40 years compared with the 18-month provisional license under which Big Rock Point has been operating. It expires March 1, 1954.

Robert E. Kettner, director of nuclear activities for Consumers Power, said that the plant has operated successfully and reliably under the provisional certificate, and that the company sees no reason for asking in extension of the provisional license.

If the permanent license is granted, it will be the first such license issued by the AEC in the history of commercial nuclear power. There are two other nuclear plants in operation with AEC licenses, but these licenses were granted before the present AEC provisions of license arrangement was placed into effect, making it necessary to first "prove" a plant under a temporary license.

If the license is granted, Kettner said, the company can take steps to proceed with further tests and research designed to bring Big Rock Point up to its maximum power output of 75,000 kilowatts. Under the temporary license, power output is limited to 30,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Big Rock Point is the first nuclear power plant in Michigan. It achieved its initial electrical output for commercial use on December 8, 1952.

First Dressed As A Bishop

Santa first appeared in his now-traditional guise as a plump, jovial, white-bearded and pipe-smoking old gentleman in the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," written by Dr. Clement C. Moore in 1822.

Earlier, "Saint Nicholas" had been pictured dressed as a bishop, in the poem "The Children's Friend," and in Washington Irving's "Knickerbocker History of New York," published in 1809. Santa was said to wear a broad-brimmed hat and huge breeches.

"Oen Dr. Moore's poem did not, apparently, clothe Santa in a red suit. 'He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,' says the poem.

Santa as he looks today was first sketched by cartoonist Thomas Nast in 1863. The cartoon showed Santa in his familiar red garb, smoking a pipe.

With more than two square miles of fresh water for every three square miles of land, Michigan has a greater proportion of fresh water to land than any other state, clothe our country in the world.

When Organ Broke Yule in Germany

"Silent Night" was first sung at Christmas 1818.

The church organ in an Austrian village had broken down—impaired by mice, so the story goes. Father Joseph Mohr wrote the poem and his friend Franz Gruber composed the music.

The congregation, which had been saddened because there would be no music for Christmas, sang "Silent Night" to a guitar accompaniment.

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PEACE

As we celebrate the glory of His birth, let us also remember how He taught that love of mankind is the true path to Peace on Earth.

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