

Reduce PCHA Board

Ever since Attorney General Frank Kelley issued his indictment against the Peoples Community Hospital Authority many suggested reformative measures have been offered by area mayors, supervisors, State Representatives and Senators—some good and others not so good. The basic problem of the Hospital Authority is it has lost touch with its 23 member community because its Board of Directors is too large and cumbersome for delegates to actually know what is going on. Most delegates appointed to represent their communities have other important positions which prevent them from attending the many committee meetings where the bulk of the business is transacted. The groundwork is done on the committee level and when the 42 directors gather once a month, mistakes are rubbed salt in the wound. Directors having any extensive background information are those sitting on the committee which studied the particular motion.

Reforms which would help eliminate "rubber-stamping" and lack of commitment were to reduce the size of the Board of Directors to one delegate for each participating community and eliminate the members-at-large. The 23 delegates should be appointed to a four-year term and be required to report the affairs of the PCHA each month to their governing body. A suggested "reform" which will not help is to turn the PCHA over to a private corporation. A corporation would not collect the 4 mill levy from the community residents where the total \$741,147.26 in 1965) and to continue offering the same service would have to raise patient charges. If the PCHA is turned over to a new Buyer Hospital will have to be built and Seaway Hospital expanded. If the Authority does not undertake the construction, a corporation will have to and cost of the bonds will be paid by raising room rates.

Did Someone Goof?

Did someone goof or was it simply that Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. never did have a firm idea that it would establish its home office in Plymouth?

That's the question before residents of the Plymouth community today after a brief announcement from Hamilton officials that they had secured a 13 acre site in the Quaker-Town Village section of Farmington Township and would build their new \$1 million building there.

Ever since Alexander Hamilton first appeared on the scene in Plymouth some three years ago when the company was founded and the stock sale story was generally believed that the insurance company would make the community its home base.

Thus the announcement of the move to Farmington Township with a projection by Hamilton officials that the new building would probably go as high as 2,200 in three or four years comes as a distinct blow to Plymouth.

For Farmington Township this is a tremendous addition, for Plymouth a crashing disaster.

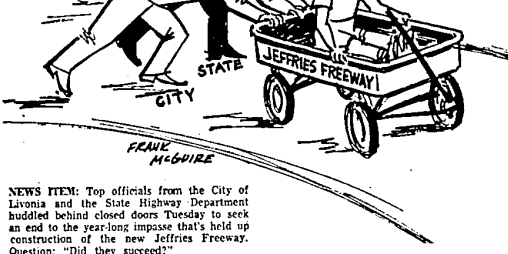
Especially is this true in lieu of the fact that Hamilton officials have been studying a proposed building with a Colonial design—something that would fit into the general theme of the Plymouth community. Plymouth has long taken pride in the Colonial aspect of the city and the community — thus when it was learned that Hamilton

HOW'S YOUR P. Q.?

By KARL GUENTHER
The nation's dairy industry was saddened by the news of the death of Irmatrud von Hohenhausen, who during her lifetime, had the honor of winning the annual milk production award for more years than any other woman in history. Her owner felt that it would not be fitting to say farewell to this noble beast without some sort of ceremony. Therefore, a huge coffin was built and the carcass placed on display in order for the faithful to pay their last respects. The turnout was beyond the bereaved farmer's expectations, as tens of thousands of persons stood in line to view the remains. So great was the attendance that an enterprising novelty maker purchased the cloth which draped the caulked animal, and had it made into small coin purses which were then sold as mementos of the occasion. The owner of the bovine phenomenon was highly incensed that anyone would see this sad occasion as a means of monetary gain, and instituted suit against the novelty merchant. The trial was very short, with the judge declaring in favor of the cow's owner. When questioned about his decision, the judge stated that it was based on an old adage.

Unscrupulous the following phrase to learn the basis for the judge's decision:
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NEWS ITEM: Top officials from the City of Livonia and the State Highway Department huddled behind closed doors Tuesday to seek an end to the year-long impasse that's held up construction of the new Jeffries Freeway. Question: "Did they succeed?"

THE READER SPEAKS UP:
Kudos For A Policeman

Editor:
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Livonia Police Department and to a young corporal that assisted me on Tuesday, April 5. In my excitement, I am sorry to say, I did not get his name, but I am sure your reports will indicate who he was.

I know that criticism is very often leveled upon police and their activities. I am one of those who believe that you receive a compliment when it is due. Those who level criticism are a lot more apt to make their feelings known even though I am sure they are much in the minority.

On the night mentioned above I was endeavoring to get to St. Mary's Hospital with my son who was in the process of having an appendicitis attack and my wife who was in labor. Traffic was such that I was afraid that I was not going to make it for either one. I was very fortunate to notice a Livonia police car and the corporal driving was very prompt in his action of getting into the car and driving through traffic to St. Mary's Hospital. His efforts were not in vain as within an hour of either my wife presented me with a new daughter and my son had his appendix removed. Without the services of your department would have been in very dire straits.

My congratulations to you in your choice of personnel and my deepest appreciation to the police officer that was able to take charge in a trying situation.

T. R. NOLAN
District Sales Manager
Transportation Services, Inc.

Wanted: Boys Club

Editor:
It is too bad that we in the north end of Redford Township can't act like adults and work together on the new Boys' Club building. This end of the township needs a boost; the only decent looking building we have is the new fire hall.

The impression the people on Mackinac have of the boys belonging to the club is that they are a bunch of "hoods." If they were, they wouldn't belong to the club because there isn't enough excitement there for hoods. They can go there and play pool without cigarette smoke and foul language. I would much rather see my 14-year-old there than hanging around the drive-ins and the bowling alleys and the other places they congregate where they hear there is going to be a rumble.

Mr. Rummell's opinion is that people who congregate with the club for the men and young boys to raise a joke: The little time that a boy is at the

club, does not replace a home life. They have to be taught at home. I agree with the people in the Volney Smith section that it's not the place for the club. From that I have seen a decent boy would be beaten up or mugged coming away from there.

I know there are many boys in the area without fathers, including my own son; and if they can be taught to make things with wood and things a father would teach his son, I think it is a wonderful thing. Why don't we all work together on the Boys' Club building? Isn't it worth it to have some place for them to go than no place?

J. E. H.
A resident of north Redford Township

Lauds Vietnam Report

Congratulations on the fine editorial report by Faith Gillespie on the talk by Stephen Carter in that Livonia's Service Committee series on Vietnam being held at St. James Methodist Church in Detroit. I am a resident of the South Livonia section and the last talk in this excellent series will be at St. James on April 18, at 8 p.m. The talk will be entitled "The Social and Economic Perspectives — The Role of the Public, the Expert, and the Opposition." Herbert Kelman, professor of psychology and research psychologist of the Center for Research on Conflict Resolution, University of Michigan, will be the speaker. I think the Observer is, and has been in the past open and searching for information and understanding of the Vietnam issue.

Praises Enlistees

Editor:
It's about time to look at the facts and express ourselves. In the United States Warlike Corps representative for Wayne, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Romulus and Northville, Michigan, and let it be known that the start of the cries of "Get out of Vietnam" and other such slogans by a few misguided individuals has caused the feelings of young men in this area. Their patriotism has been put on the line, and they have met the challenge and responsibility of being American citizens. In this age of space travel and rapid communication where the American people, cannot isolate themselves from the problems of other nations when they struggle for understanding and partnership in the community of nations is so acute. To answer the challenge of being Americans, the men in the area I serve have met their na-

Myra Chandler, Observer editor-in-chief, is chaperoning a group of high-school Spanish students on a tour of Mexico this week. Her column, delayed in the Easter mails, will be published upon her return next week.

repeatedly pointed out that, while there are certain powers and obligations which a city necessarily must have and which a township does not, the city charter can be drawn in any manner we please so as to narrowly limit the taxing and other powers of the proposed city. I submit that this is pure conjecture and completely ignores the evolutionary experience of other communities which incorporated with similar problems and with similar purported objectives, but each of which ended up with a city charter permitting much broader tax and other powers than the township board has possessed before incorporation as a city.

Since the members of the study committee were appointed by our Township officials who already announced themselves as favoring incorporation and had assigned and paid the cost of obtaining signatures on the filing of the incorporation petitions, the selection of a completely unbiased study committee was hardly to be expected. I think that at least some of the members of the committee started out with an open mind and were determined to make a balanced effort to ferret out all the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating, but it is quite apparent that after the filing of the petitions, they have all definitely made up their minds in favor of incorporation, and the lack of public interest in the hearings is at least in part attributable to the public's awareness of this fact. How else can one explain the statements by committee members that studying this highly controversial and complex issue, to the effect that they could find absolutely no financial or social advantages which might be expected to result from incorporation?

A single example should suffice here: From a financial standpoint, by far the most significant difference between a city and a township is the matter of road maintenance, with respect to which a city must perform many of the functions which in a township are performed by the County Road Commission. For this purpose a city receives gasoline and weight tax money from the state which is not available to a township. The study committee has made a flat and unequivocal statement that the revenue thus received from the State of Michigan will exceed the cost of the road maintenance services required to be performed. But many other cities in Michigan have found this not to be the case. Nor is it clear that the City Department of Public Works would do as good or efficient a job as the township's Department of Public Works, which has found this to be the case. Nor is it clear that the City of Farmington (or any other city) without a majority favorable vote of the entire town-

Change the Name?

Editor:
A suggestion to the Charter Commission which is now redesigning Livonia's city government: Let's change the name of our City to a real American name. Livonia comes from an old Russian province and the farther away we keep from getting tainted with any Red influence, the better. Besides, the city's reputation needs to be improved and a fresh name would help.

Good Points for Status Quo—Farmington

Editor:
Editorials in the Farmington Observer have lamented the relatively small and declining attendance at the public meetings of the study committee on the proposal to incorporate Farmington Township as a home-rule city. In my opinion such poor attendance is an indication not of public apathy but rather of the fact that the people of the Township either lack confidence in the impartiality of the study committee or feel that there are other and better ways of informing themselves as to the issues and problems involved—either by reading some of the available literature on the advantages and disadvantages of the city form of government or by inquiring directly into the experience of Warren, Livonia, Wyoming and other areas where a city has recently been formed from all or a very substantial part of a township.

The study committee seems to have ignored completely the experience of others, and particularly the rapidly rising tax rates in other communities after they became cities, and has dwelt on purely abstract or theoretical issues. For example, the committee has

DAVID N. MILLS,
Farmington Township

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