

# In Our Opinion . . .

## A Newspaper's Tradition — And How It Will Be Continued

By PHILIP H. POWER  
Publisher

This issue marks the 27th anniversary of the Observer papers. The first month that I have been on the job, full time, as publisher.

Anniversaries are always a time for taking stock, to write a bit about the past, and glancing into the future.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to write a bit about the past of one newspaper, the Livonian Observer, and about the future of eight newspapers, the Observer Newspaper Group, of which the Enterprise is a part.

IF THERE has been one thing which characterized the papers in the past, it has been guts. Not fanciness. Not precision. Not razzle-dazzle. But plain, simple, straight guts and courage.

Courage means to have taken an unpopular or controversial editorial position and to have stuck to it.

To have had courage is to have had the imagination and the will power to have had a dream about a newspaper and about how it could prosper and become great.

To have had courage means to have dug out the unpleasant facts behind the bland sheen of local government. It means to have printed them, regardless of threats of retaliation, just to have made sure that the public was served with the only commodity a newspaper can sell in news stories or advertisements, the truth.

To have guts is tiring, lonely, sad. Sometimes it's a little disillusioning. Always it's hard.

To those who write them (and hopefully, to some of those who read them) newspapers are alive, motivated by a spirit and a commitment, a posture in the world and an ethic. Without these, a newspaper is just another dead piece of paper with print on it.

It is only this spirit which permits a newspaper to play its true role: A public conscience.

These papers have tried to play this role in the past.

The spirit of courage which has motivated the paper will be, I pledge, the same spirit which will drive the group in the future.

LIVING UP to the standards of the past is not easy, but all of us will try. And we're going to try to go beyond

even the high standards already set. We will try to bring to these newspapers an informed and probing curiosity about everything of local interest, from sewage to high school football, from racial discrimination to good recipes, from local politics to neighborhood goings on.

We will do this in a way that reflects a newspaperman's most deeply held ethic: That there is a difference between fact and opinion; that statements of fact belong in the news columns; that expressions of opinion belong on the editorial page. News is news; no real newspaperman wants to slant it. If a newsman wants to express an opinion, he writes an editorial.

In short, we will run an accurate and fair newspaper.

We will work to make true every good newspaperman's dream: To put out the best paper in the country. We will do so with imagination and audacity. We will try new ideas and experiments with new processes.

THESE NEWSPAPERS, of course, will have an interest in politics because politics is a vital part of our public life, where decisions that affect us all are made. In this connection, I believe that a personal note is needed to set the record quite clear.

As an individual, I am a Democrat.

As a publisher, I am a Democrat. Since I joined The Observer Newspaper Group, many people have wondered, some out loud, if the fact that I am a Democrat who happens to publish some newspapers would automatically make those newspapers into slanted, Democratic sheets.

I will not. When, as publisher, I feel the Democrats are being silly or stupid, I intend to say so in an editorial. I intend to do the same thing with the Republicans.

These newspapers will be run as newspapers, not as a vehicle for any one group, party, organization or individual.

For a newspaper must serve the public as a whole and not just one segment.

This, then, is our spirit and goal. To the Observer Newspaper Group. To serve the public as the conscience and the people with the truth.

We look forward to the years ahead with a sense of excitement, and we invite you to join with us in the grand adventure of building a great newspaper.

# Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago  
FEBRUARY 15, 1962  
Exchange Presy  
New officers and directors of the Farmington Exchange Club were installed last week with Floyd A. Cairns, Township Clerk, taking over the reins as president.

Lights Out  
The Farmington Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night against a proposal for the lighting of the Farmington Senior High athletic field to permit a night football schedule and other outdoor nighttime activities and programs.

Community College  
The Oakland County Board of Education has now endorsed in principle a proposal for the formation of a county community college and is proceeding with a detailed study on all aspects of the proposal.

Supt. G. V. Harrison stated in a report to the Farmington Board of Education Monday night.

Library Help  
Support for the Farmington District Library from penal fines which are levied in the city and township will be forthcoming if a state bill introduced by Rep Hans C. Rasmussen and co-sponsored by Rep Raymond L. Baker state representative for this district, is passed into law.

10 Years Ago  
FEBRUARY 14, 1957  
Fifth in County  
In spite of a general decline in the number of new home building permits during 1956, Farmington Township continued to gain in relationship to other communities in Oakland County. It now places fifth with 64 permits issued during 1956.

Tax Statements  
Township residents are being reminded this week that February 28 is the final date for final payment of school and county taxes without penalty.

Kendallwood School  
Revised plans for the new elementary school to be constructed at the Kendallwood School site were approved by the Board of Education Monday night after a detailed study of the plans submitted by the architect.

Combined Departments  
A proposed ordinance, providing for the integration of City police and fire departments, has been drafted by Earl Schuchman, city manager, and will be presented to the City Council at its regular meeting next week.

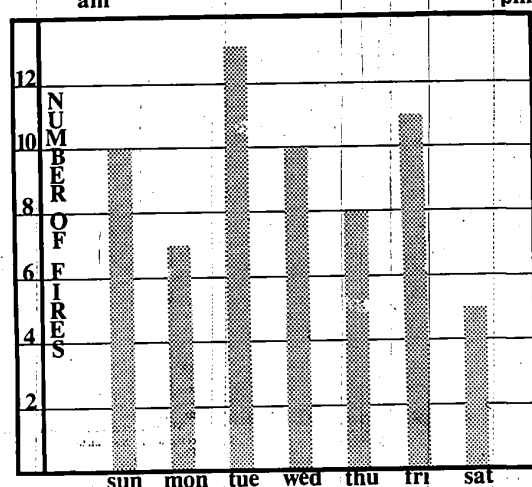
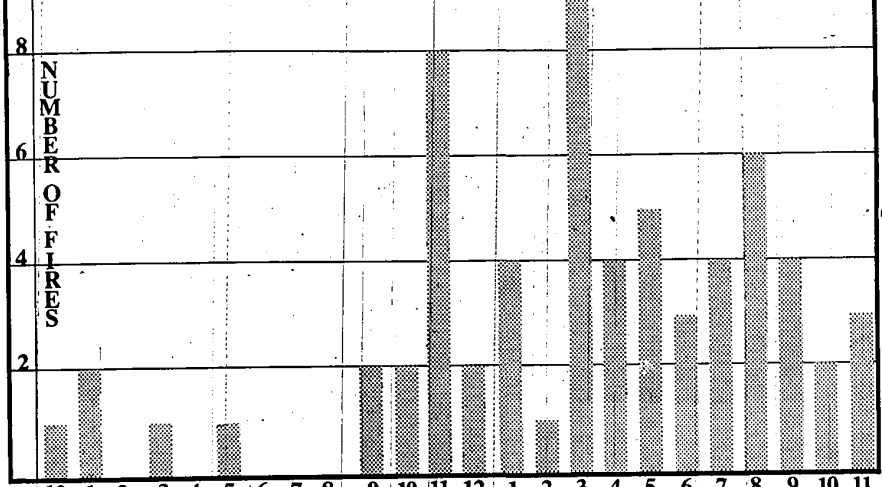
15 Years Ago  
FEBRUARY 14, 1952  
March Successful  
Over \$3,500 was collected during the March of Dimes drive conducted in the southwest Oakland County Chapter last week. It was announced Monday by Pierre Delmonette, chapter director.

Street Improvements  
A survey of projected street improvements for the City of Farmington has been filed with the State Highway Dept. under the new Highway Act of 1951, James Tennant, city manager, announced Tuesday.

Teacher in Print  
Mr. Robert Benjamin, Farmington High art instructor, will publish a book on the history of Mackinac Island this spring.

Book Rental  
New literature text books for sophomore English students are being rented for fifty cents this semester to save students the expense of buying another book.

# When Fires Occur In Farmington



# Usual Fire-Tuesday At 11

LUNCH and dinner time are the most common hours for fires to start in the City of Farmington, according to the Public Safety Department's 1966 annual report. A third common hour was 8 p.m., shortly after businesses close for the night. The big lesson: Fires get started when people are most active.



WEEKENDS, when people are away from their homes, tends to be a slower time for fires, the city fire report shows. Tuesday and Friday are the top days for blazes — but it's best to be careful every day.

# Public Letterbox

To the Editor:  
The Oakland County Road Commission wishes to thank the citizens of Oakland County for their patience and understanding during the past week.

It has been a trying time for everyone and the inconvenience created by the storm has been frustrating to the road crews as well as to the motorists.

Three hundred and twenty-five employees, manning 100 pieces of equipment have worked around the clock in an effort to keep trunk lines, primary and secondary roads passable. Subdivision streets were plowed as soon as the equipment could get to them.

The storm weather preceding the storm made gravel roads soft under the blanket of snow; as a result, extra time was required to clear the roads.

Abandoned cars left unattended in the travel portion of roads and sometimes locked, hampered efforts in snow plowing even more.

Many citizens complain because their driveway entrances are plowed full of snow after they have cleaned them out. It is estimated there are 200,000 driveway entrances in Oakland County, and for the road crews to clean them out along 2,700 miles of roads that require plowing would be impossible to do.

Aiding doctors and nurses and even the stork in emergencies many times have been able to get through after a detailed study of the plans submitted by the architect.

Combined Departments  
A proposed ordinance, providing for the integration of City police and fire departments, has been drafted by Earl Schuchman, city manager, and will be presented to the City Council at its regular meeting next week.

15 Years Ago  
FEBRUARY 14, 1952  
March Successful  
Over \$3,500 was collected during the March of Dimes drive conducted in the southwest Oakland County Chapter last week. It was announced Monday by Pierre Delmonette, chapter director.

Street Improvements  
A survey of projected street improvements for the City of Farmington has been filed with the State Highway Dept. under the new Highway Act of 1951, James Tennant, city manager, announced Tuesday.

Teacher in Print  
Mr. Robert Benjamin, Farmington High art instructor, will publish a book on the history of Mackinac Island this spring.

Book Rental  
New literature text books for sophomore English students are being rented for fifty cents this semester to save students the expense of buying another book.

# Window Shows Cub Mementoes

Cub Pack 48 of Bond School is demonstrating its activities with an interesting display in Gables Shoe Store window, located in Kendallwood Shopping Center. The Display Committee of Mrs. Mary Harward, Mrs. Pauline Jewsbury and Mrs. Jean Dougherty gathered material from all the boys of Pack 48.

Cub Scouting teaches spirit, enthusiasm, as demonstrated by Charles Kapernaros' first place swimming trophy, Michael Sharp's all star baseball trophy, and Roger Newlin's, Joe Zott's, and Mark Kraus' awards for Pinewood Derby Racing.

Cub Scouting promotes a love of nature as indicated by Greg Babiar's bird house and Robert Lee's tree studies.

Cub Scouting urges respect for country. Kent Harward has a collection of Kennedy mementoes.

Cub Scouting encourages hobbies. Bryan Bennett and Tom Takai have shell collections; Mark Parker creates model airplanes; Steve Jewsbury saves postcards from his torical places; Mike Neitzel collects stamps.

Cub Scouting develops crafts: Den 5 made copper plates, Den 7 made pinecone center pieces for Christmas; Den 2 created all the props for their Pack Meeting Bat Man Skit; Hank Robbins displayed his Christmas candle; Robert and Richard Mitchell made clever paper weights and pin cushions.

Other achievements covered in the Cubbing Program are also represented in the display: Cub Scouts learn of their community through field trips; Cub Scouts gain a respect for flag and country through knowledge of flag ceremonies. Records and song books tell of Cub Scout fun singing. Cub Scouting stimulates scholarship and many of the boys donated books from their personal libraries.

A Cub Scout gains knowledge in cooking—but no Cub has claimed the burnt frying pan in the corner of the display.

Miss Brown Wins D.A.R. Job Award  
Following in the footsteps of her predecessors, Sandy Schulze, 1965, and Thea Schwartz, 1966, Senior Margaret Brown won this year's Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Good Citizen's Award.

In response, Peg said, "It comes as a surprise to me, and I am greatly honored."

Peg now competes for the state award which consists of a \$100 U.S. government bond, a gift from the National Society, and a \$50 bond from the State Society. The state winner is selected upon the basis of her answers to a questionaire dealing with a knowledge of citizenship.

Peg has been very active in her three years at F.H.S. She has been a class officer and a Student Council representative since she was a sophomore, and in her junior year she was elected to attend Girl's State. There she was elected as City Party Chairman of Shepard City. She has also been a member of the French Club for three years.

A tea honoring Peg and other D.A.R. winners is scheduled for Monday, February 13.

Granted, the snow was of a heavy-crusted variety, but it would have been more bearable if the situation improved visibly from day to day.

When we first moved into the township several years ago, snow plowing service was prompt and thorough. Even

# Cherry Festival Lures Cville Band

Clarenceville's High School band has received approval from the Board of Education and tentatively plans to participate in the National Cherry Festival at Traverse City July 12 to 15, 1967. Highlighting the four festival days will be a marching band competition. First and second place winners will receive a trophy and cash award.

A fund-raising program is being considered to help defray the cost of transportation and lodging of those who will take part.

# Pancake Supper At East Jr. High

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association at East Junior High will sponsor its second annual pancake supper at the school Tuesday, March 7.

"Mr. Pancake," Wally Johnson, will do the cooking. Prices are \$1.25 for adults, 75 cents for students and an economy package of \$5 for the family.

Pancakes and sausages will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and there will be no limit on the number of seconds!

## The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal Of Progress" Established 1888

M. P. A.  
A. N. R.

Published by Farmington Enterprise, Inc. 13623 Grand  
Farmington, Michigan, each Sunday. Entered as  
Second Class Matter at the U. S. Post Office, Farmington,  
Michigan. Address all mail subscription changes of address  
forms 3579, to Box 435, Farmington, Michigan 48024.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
By Carrier: Single copy, 10c; Monthly rate, 35c.  
By Mail: \$4.00 with Farmington Address; \$5.00 Elsewhere.

PHONES  
Home Delivery Service 474-8737  
Subscriptions and Want Ads 474-6225