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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford and Farmington

VOL. 3 — NO. 11 | 52 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1966 | 33425 Grand River, Farmington | Philip H. Power, Publisher

Harrison Resigns Effective June 30, 1967

Gerald V. Harrison, Farmington's Superintendent of Schools, announced his resignation effective June 30, 1967 at the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday night.

Harrison told **The Observer** that he was resigning because he wanted to devote additional time to his family. Harrison added that he had no definite plans in mind, but was looking forward to spending time doing some of the things he and his wife had always wanted to do.

The resignation was accepted with regret by the Board of Education.

Harrison joined the Farmington Schools in 1946 as principal of the combined junior and senior high on Thomas St. In 1956 he was named assistant superintendent and in 1957 was named superintendent succeeding Orville E. Dunckel.

A native of Michigan, Harrison holds an A.B. and M.A. in education from the University of Michigan. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

During Harrison's years in Farmington, he has conquered the challenge of overcrowded classrooms and has diligently worked with the Board and citizens groups to meet expansion needs. One of his most time consuming and well planned projects was to set up a long-range building program.

During Harrison's tenure, electors approved bond and millage proposals seven times. Never was an issue for school money defeated.

In addition to his educational interests, Harrison has been active in community and professional groups on the local, county and national levels. During the previous school year, he was signaled out by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the Oakland County School Superintendents.

In his letter of resignation Harrison recalled that at the time of his retirement he "will have completed 39 years in education — 21 of which have been in Farmington.

"So you must be aware that my decision to retire was not an easy one, nor was it arrived at hastily," he stated.

"I wish to express my appreciation to the Board of Education for the confidence this body has shown me publicly and privately through the years. I am appreciative of the unceasing dedication of the Board to the task of providing the best possible educational program for the school district.

"In my opinion you have been able to build a staff both teaching and non-teaching that is second to none in the State of Michigan. This has not just happened. It came to pass because school board members and the community as a whole over the years have wanted a high quality instructional program and the physical facilities to implement it. This can be accomplished through a high quality staff.

"May you continue your efforts in this direction and may the community at large continue to support and undergird your efforts!"

Board President Richard Peters said that the vacancy would be posted and applications sought from within the school system, on the state and the national levels. He added that the Board would have the assistance of experts from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and the Wayne State University to fill the vacancy.

"The educator we will seek must be capable of providing creative and aggressive leadership while implementing the philosophy of the Farmington Public School System," Peters said. "Foresight, common sense, physical stamina, effectiveness in communication with staff and public and the ability to delegate responsibility are among the many exemplary qualities we will hope to find combined in this person.

"Such people are rare. Farmington has been fortunate to be guided by such a superintendent for the past decade. We intend to locate a replacement of equally high caliber."

GERALD V. HARRISON

FEA Grievance Turned Down by Board

Township Forms Committee To Screen Nominations

The Farmington Township Board appointed a three-man committee Monday night to make recommendations on the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of Thomas Duke a few months ago.

Appointed to screen the 15 or so possibilities were Township Clerk Floyd Cairns, and Trustees Earl Opperthauser and Thomas Nolan.

The action came under new business on the agenda and Opperthauser stated that he thought three members of the Board would be sufficient to screen the candidates.

Township Supervisor Curt Hall noted that Aldo Vagnozzi, his Democrat opponent for Supervisor, had requested to speak on the matter.

Vagnozzi thanked Hall for the opportunity to speak and said that he was happy to see the "Board moving" on the question and called for members of the committe from outside the Township Board. The Democrat also added that he would like to have the name of all those considered for the post be made public at this time.

Opperthauser replied to this stating that the Board had met many times in an ex officio capacity to consider this question and that he didn't think making the names public would be a good idea or proper procedure as with the number of names being considered and with only one appointment to make there would be many "embarrased and disappointed people" when the final decision was reached if all the names were made public.

The Trustee added that the purpose of this committee would be to narrow the choice of names down to three, four or five and to report back to the full Board.

Hall stated that it had always ben the policy of the Township "even when ballots were counted at the table" to announce the winner and that would be all. The Supervisor also stated that a committee has always been appointed in the past to help fill such vacancies.

Nolan pointed out to Vagnozzi that the committee was open to any suggestions for appointments to the post and that all nominations including those that Vagnozzi had made would be considered.

Dinan and Hall Discuss Annexation

The annexation question was discussed at Independence Green Monday night with proponents and opponents having five minutes each to explain their positions.

Farmington City Manager John Dinan told the residents why they should vote in favor of the question, while Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall explained the Township's side of the case.

Hall said that there were three basic questions. Tying the issue of police and fire protection together he said that the Township had more police officers than the city and that a police car was just about always patrolling in the District.

He noted that a fire station was not far away and that a truck could be on the scene in 20 to 30 seconds after the alarm would be sounded. Backing up the station at Star Cutter an additional four units and a total of 80 men were available to the residents in case of fire.

The final question and main issue, according to Hall, depends on the voter's sense of "fair play" and the question of what is "legally right" as opposed to what is "morally right."

Hall noted the background of the industrial area and the citizen vote on millage to provide water and sewer service to the Industrial Park. "Why should the City take this land now when we have spent the money to develop it?" he asked estimating that if successfully annexed the Township would

(Continued on Page 5B)

Committee Discusses Field Trip

Members of the pre-study steering committee for the future develpoment of the Greater Farmington Community journeyed to East Lansing last week to meet with the staff of the Institute for Community Development at Michigan State University.

Composed of members from the Farmington Board of Commerce, the Jaycees and the League of Women Voters the group was formed about a month ago to study the various avenues open to the community.

John Richardson, spokesman for the group, said that the possibilities for the future development of the greater Farmington Community were discussed with experts in the areas of transportation, population, urban planning, political science, sociology and education.

Richardson added that although both the city and the township each have made exhaustive studies for the development of their respective municipalities ,there is reason to believe that the development of the Greater Farmington Community as a whole bears investigation after the discussion at MSU.

In forthcoming weeks, Richardson said, the citizens will be advised of the progress of the committee's work as the study is made in greater depth.

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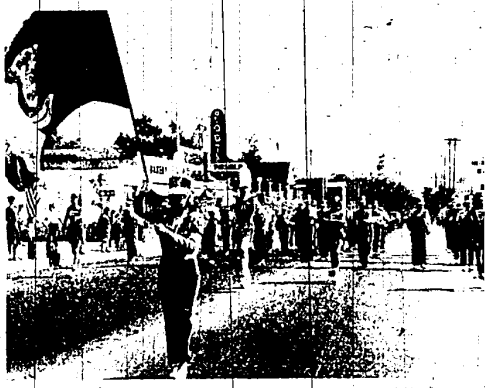
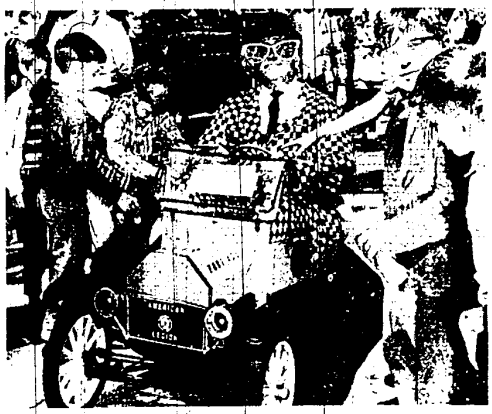
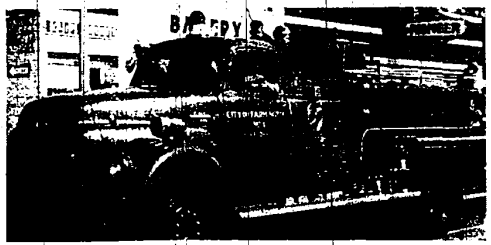
A Parade for Prevention



THE BAND from Farmington High School led Saturday's Fire Prevention Parade down Grand River. The high stepping group leads a procession of floats, dignitaries, local organizations and fire equipment to point out the need for fire prevention.



EVERYBODY LOVES a parade, but especially the kids. One of the features of Saturday's event was the young man in the small car sponsored by the American Legion Post 455. Farmington's younger set show their approval of this entry by their greeting of the gentleman.



THE FIRE TRUCKS were all polished up and on display Saturday. In addition to the equipment from the City, several surrounding communities participated in the event by sending equipment and representatives of the fire fighters to re-emphasize the need for fire prevention.

Underground Wiring Gets Township OK

Farmington Township has a new ordinance requiring underground wiring for the utilities.

The Township Board adopted the ordinance Monday night following months of study and discussion by the Planning Commission, but only after spokesmen for the Detroit Edison Company had made a last ditch effort to gain further modification in the ordinance.

Under the ordinance all wiring would be required underground with the exception of main supply lines which could be constructed overhead along quarter section or section lines. If overhead lines are to be constructed in any other portion of the Township a waiver must be granted in each individual case.

It was this provision which

(Continued on Page 5B)

Lunch Time Not Included in Day

The Farmington Board of Education denied the request of the Farmington Education Association to shorten the work day of the secondary teachers by 15 minutes.

This action, on the first grievance of the new contract, was taken at the regular Monday night meeting of the School Board.

The Board, after reviewing all correspondance on the grievance, acted on the advice of their attorney in the contract negotiations, Fred B. Schwarze of Keller, Thoma McManus and Keller.

In a letter to the School Board, Schwarze said, "I find no support for the FEA's view that Articles V, Section A of the Agreement specifies the time teachers are normally required to be in school.

"First, the language of Article V speaks of the normal teacher's class day. There is nothing to indicate this is synonymous with the teacher's 'work day'.

"To me, 'class day' refers to that period of time in which teachers are in class with students.

"Second, even if the term 'class day' were to mean 'work day,' the 25 minute duty free lunch period in the case of secondary teachers does not constitute either time worked or 'class day' time as such, and certainly should not be included in the 7½ hour figure.

"Insummary the teacher's grievance appears to be with-

(Continued on Page 5B)

Enterprise Changes Date of Publication

Residents of the Farmington community, including the City and Township, will see community weekly newspapers twice weekly, beginning Oct. 23 when the Farmington Enterprise will move to a new Sunday publication day.

That was the announcement Monday by Philip Power, publisher of the Farmington Enterprise. The Enterprise previously has been published on Wednesdays.

"The only real function of a newspaper is to serve the community," he said in announcing the change in publication day. "Readers are served by informative, thoughtful reporting of the news of the community. Advertisers are served by effective, original and

(Continued on Page 5B)

'Meet Your Man' Night Planned

The Farmington Jaycees have announced plans for a "Meet Your Man" candidates night just before the November election.

Candidates for the offices of U.S. Congressman, State Senator, and State Representative have been invited to participate. A question and answer period is anticipated.

Local candidates for office in Farmington Township will be introduced, but not speak at the session.

The evening is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Junior High School on Thomas St.

Candidates for Congress are Billie S. Farnum (D), the incumbent, and Jack McDonald (R). State Senate candidates are Paul Livingston (D) and George Kuhn (R). Ray Baker (R), the incumbent, faces Leonard P. Baruch (D) for the post of state representative.

Fairview Slates Dedication Nov. 9

Dedication of the new Fairview Elementary School has been set for Nov. 9 and will be a part of American Education Week.

One of the features of the school, which opened this fall, is the bell from the original Fairview School which was built in 1835.

At the Monday evening Farmington Board of Education meeting, it was decided that the bell will be electrically hooked up at a maximum cost of $300 for the general construction and $448 for the electrical contractor.

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FARMINGTON

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