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Top '68 Stories: Study, Schools & Clark

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a two-part series. In this article a projection of some of the major news stories of 1968 is made. Last Sunday the top news stories and events of 1967 were recalled.)

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Three news stories begun in 1967 are certain to continue into the new year.

These include the work of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee and its efforts to launch an area-wide study of governmental alternatives and the financial plight of the Farmington School District.

That's on the local scene.

National press coverage has been forthcoming on the legal moves in the case of Dr. Ronald E. Clark, the Farmington Township doctor currently awaiting trial on a charge of manslaughter. This coverage can be expected to increase when the formal trial actually begins.

AS A NEWS STORY, the Future Farmington Area Study Committee began more than a year ago. In the past year, however, it has dominated the local political scene.

Composed of representatives of the Farmington Board of Commerce, the Farmington Jaycees,

and the Farmington chapter of the League of Women Voters, along with representatives from the local governmental bodies.

Its aim was to have an objective study of the various governmental alternatives made. Local politics interfered, however.

An actual proposal for a study by the Michigan State University Institute for Community Services was blocked in May when the township refused to support the idea on the basis that release of the study would "cloud" the pending incorporation election in the township.

With this the study group beat a hasty retreat and announced that no further formal action would be taken until after the October election.

Following the election the committee resumed its work. MSU has made a proposal, which the committee and the city have formally adopted. Approval is also expected from the two village councils.

The township board, however, has withheld any action, asserting that it wants to examine more than one proposal.

Whatever happens, the study group and its actions are certain to continue to be in the news and to have an impact on the local political scene.

ON THE SCHOOL SCENE, 1967 marked the first defeat of a millage request in the history of the district. This year's budget is about \$1 million in the red. Surplus funds are being used to defray the difference between income and outgo.

The defeat of the millage has been attributed to a general objection to increased taxes and the news that an across-the-board increase in the assessments would hit the taxpayer.

Opponents of the millage pointed to this increase and asserted that it would provide the necessary revenue.

The Board of Education hasn't made any statement on the matter, but seems to have adopted a wait and see attitude. The possibility of returning to the voters for more money hasn't been ruled out.

This story will certainly be in the news in 1968.

IN NOVEMBER township police arrested Dr. Ronald E. Clark on the charge of manslaughter. The arrest grew out of the death of a patient, Mrs. Grace Neil, in his Grand River office.

Police discovery of the death occurred by accident when a township policeman noticed a hearse parked illegally on Grand River.

Oakland County Prosecutor S. Jerome Bronson has said that his office is investigating other deaths where Clark was the attending physician.

Clark is currently, free on \$15,000 personal bond and a date has not been set for his trial in circuit court. His court-appointed attorney, Philip Rowliston of Pontiac, has said that he is considering requesting a change of venue for the trial.

Rowliston cited the coverage of the case in the press. However, whether or not the trial is moved to another court district, the trial and the case will continue to draw coverage not only from the metropolitan media, but the wire services and the national magazines.

THESE ARE just three of the big local news stories during 1968. Other events will dominate the news as the actions of various governmental units and individuals will continue to interact.



A HAZARD OF WINTER DRIVING—Slipperiness of the highway was blamed for a four-car chain reaction accident on Orchard Lake Rd. Dec. 28, leaving this evidence of the mishap. All four cars were southbound and when Victoria Eller Hollis, 32987 Hargrove Ct., stopped for a vehicle making a left turn at Ridgeway, the three

following drivers caused a scene resembling the fall of a house of cards. Succeeding drivers involved were Charles D. Martin, 31726 Tre-stain; Arnold F. Klein, 26803 Westmeath, and Robert A. Theise, 24157 Twin Valley. All drivers are Farmington residents.

Harrison To Fill New Board Of Commerce Post

Farmington Board of Commerce begins 1968 with Gerald V. Harrison, former superintendent of schools, serving in the new position of executive director.

The board of directors of the "group" made the decision to appoint an executive director because of the growth of the various roles of the Board of Commerce now plays throughout the community.

HARRISON will oversee development of membership, represent the board at the national and local levels, supervise the board's varied programs for its members and be an official board spokesman.

Harrison came up through the ranks in Farmington public schools having served as assistant school superintendent and principal of Farmington High School.

He holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan and is a member of the Oakland County Mental Health

Board, the board of management of the Farmington YMCA, the Farmington Exchange Club and chairman of the board of trustees of the First Methodist Church.

THE GENERAL membership of the Board of Commerce will elect its officers this month. Fred Scott, the retiring president, was stated:

"The end of the year is a good time to assess the activities of the Board of Commerce."

"The Farmington Founders Festival, despite adverse weather and the Detroit riots, was most successful with increased participation on the part of city and township citizens and business and civic groups."

"The Founders' Follies at Mercy High School, sponsored by the Board of Commerce, was successful in developing community pride, spirit and activity in local events."

"The Old Yule Log game proved again, in spite of bad weather, that the students, as well as the adults, in the greater Farmington area, take part in and make any Farmington community-wide effort a success."

"THE EFFORTS of the Board of Commerce to encourage new business and industry to settle in the Farmington area met with considerable success."



GERALD V. HARRISON

Center To Open In 1970

It will not be until September, 1970, that the county vocational center in Walled Lake, to which Farmington area students will be assigned, will be ready for use, according to a timetable adopted this week.

The Oakland Schools Intermediate District Board of Education designated centers in Pontiac and Royal Oak for completion by the fall of 1969, with Clarkston and Walled Lake units delayed until a year after that.

Decision Due Thursday On Debated Subdivision

Final disposition of the hotly contested rezoning request for 15 acres at the northeast corner of Middle Belt Road and Northwestern Highway to permit development of the proposed Franklin Gateways subdivision has been promised for Thursday night by the Farmington Township Planning Commission.

Expanded Coverage Has Choice Tidbits

Continuing its expanded news coverage during the strike of the Metropolitan Detroit dailies, the Observer Newspapers this week are offering many choice tidbits.

Homicides in Detroit hit at all-time high. Page 3-B.

A New York Times survey shows that Nelson Rockefeller is the one Republican that could beat LBJ today. Page 2A.

Quintuplets in Australia are doing fine. Page 2A.

GM paid Altonia workers more than \$40 million during 1967. Area firms also benefit. Page 3A.

Bentley and Garden City fives lose in finals of holiday basketball tournaments. Pages 2 and 3B.

Red Sox triumph in American League top sports story of 1967. Page 15C.

Wrap-up of the holiday gridiron classics. Page 14C.

Cancer patients are still getting forbidden drugs. Page 1B.

Holiday Ends In Stabbing

Two Farmington Township brothers who were none on leave from the Army for the holidays were stabbed when a New Year's Eve party they were attending turned into a pre-dawn brawl.

Randall H. Ryan, 19, of 21355 Farmington Rd., was listed in "fair" condition by Botsford General Hospital officials after suffering a knife wound which penetrated one lung.

His brother, Thomas W. Ryan, 21, was slashed about the body, but the injuries were considered less serious and a hospital spokesman said his condition was officially classed as "good."

The double attack occurred at approximately 3 a.m., Jan. 1, at a residence at 6551 Drake Rd. in West Bloomfield Township.

West Bloomfield Police Chief Melvin Will said that from 50 to 60 persons, all between the ages of 18 and 31, were at the party. A third man also was wounded when shot in the hand, according to Will.

The Ryan brothers both are on leave from duty at Fort Hood, Texas.

Completes Basic

Seaman Recruit James R. Holman, USN, 18, son of Mrs. Beatrice M. Holman, of 24719 Farmington, Farmington, has been graduated from nine weeks of Navy basic training at the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill.

The Joys Of The First Winter Snow



AWAY WE GO — The Christmas sleds and toboggans had to be initiated in the fresh snow last week. Here a group start off from the top of the hill in the Farmington City Park.

A ROUND SLED — This size sled might be new, but the youngsters enjoy them just as much as their parents did the more conventional type sled.

BUDDING FIGURE SKATERS — These two young men couldn't resist the ice to help while away some of those hours of Christmas vacation.