

Township Board OK's Its Own, Area Studies

The issue of analyzing the total Farmington area's future governmental alternatives was resolved this week after months of knif-knawing when township trustees appropriated \$5,000 not just for one, but two studies. Half of this amount will go to hire their own consultant, Don Oakes, of Grand Rapids, to come up with a recommendation of what course he thinks best for the township itself. Major possibilities are incorporation as a municipality, unification with the City of Farmington, or maintaining the status quo.

The township will give the other \$2,500 to the Future Farmington Area Study Committee to retain the Michigan State University Institute for Community Development to conduct a study of community-wide alternatives.

IN THIS approach, MSU's experts will have equal access to records of the city and two villages, Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms, and the findings will pertain to all four.

The city and villages already have appropriated funds for the study, and although the township's unanimous vote of the trustees leaves the hiring committee \$1,000 short of the MSU fee, its officials have no fear of raising the difference.

The only string attached to its MSU subsidy by the township was that a "satisfactory contract" be drawn before any money is paid to the institute. Trustee Thomas Nolan was named as the delegate to the negotiating committee to protect the township's interest.

"With the two studies, we should get the results we're

looking for," said Supervisor Curtis H. Hall in the climatic, considerable oratory which preceded Monday night's vote.

Hall, himself, castigated The Enterprise & Observer for an editorial of Jan. 17 which took issue with an earlier township resolution toward the proposed study problem, declaring:

"We have taken a deliberate, prudent course and have not been stampeded. It wasn't expedient for us to go along with the parade. Other governments approved the MSU plan after showing only a passing interest, whereas we took time to ex-

plore that offer and look into other possibilities as well.

"The voters elected us to represent Farmington Township as our primary concern, with the Farmington area as a whole secondary. At no time did we block the MSU study; we simply didn't agree to contribute until we had completed our own investigation."

TRUSTEE EARL Opperhauser, who placed in motion the resolution to pursue the two-study plan, said a clarifying letter from MSU this week led him to support the institute. He referred to a letter from Dr. Robert C. Anderson of the

institute, assuring that under no circumstances will MSU withdraw from the study once it is started, plus a spelling out of certain specifics to be examined.

Opperhauser said the latest communication from East Lansing made it apparent that the forthcoming study "will not enable the city to gather information for another annexation attempt," and on that grounds gave it his blessing.

"Even though the Michigan State proposal is lacking in some regards, I will support it with these two changes," he said. "I do have the im-

pression that theirs will be a theoretic approach, while the type of study proposed by Oakes will be very practical."

DR. JOHN RICHARDSON, chairman of the Future Farmington Committee, was in the audience when the trustees took their action and then told the board:

"It's like the end of a fairy tale. Now we should live happily ever after."

He also disclosed that he will make immediate contact with the MSU representatives to see when they can launch their analysis.



LAST MINUTE REHEARSAL -- Farmington Junior Miss Sandra Mallette, 2015 Summerwood, prepares for the violin solo she will perform during talent competition for the statewide finals of the 1968 Michigan Junior Miss Pageant to be held in Pontiac Jan. 25-28.

Sandra Mallette Has 'Boned Up' For Meet

Sandra Mallette, Farmington's Junior Miss, has been busy for days reading stacks of news magazines and getting not-perfect with Mozart's Concerto No. 4 on her violin in preparation for the statewide finals of the 1968 Michigan Junior Miss Pageant to be staged in Pontiac Northern High School Jan. 25-28.

A North Farmington High senior, Miss Mallette was her local title in finals held Dec. 2. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Mallette, 2015 Summerwood.

Except for polishing up her violin solo, which she will perform in talent competition, the local girl says there is not much she can do to prepare for the pageant. None of the 47 contestants know on what or how they will be judged.

She is making sure that several wool dresses she will lack for coats and interviews, are picture-perfect, but she still is shopping for a floor-length white formal for the pageant and appearance segment of the competition.

For her violin solo, she plans to wear a bright green A-line dress with long sleeves highlighted with silver slippers.

Miss Mallette will stay with the Don Hinkley family in Pontiac during the pageant, but

her sisters, Susan, 21, and Marianne, 14, and her parents plan to be in Pontiac for all the events.

Whatever the outcome, Farmington's Junior Miss plans to attend Western Michigan University in the fall and major in music therapy for the mentally ill.

If she should win at the Pontiac pageant she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Bottlers of Michigan, a \$500 bond from Chevrolet Motors, a \$100 scholarship from J.L. Hudson Co., and another from the Community National Bank, plus numerous gifts from merchants.

Michigan's Junior Miss of 1968 also will qualify to represent the state in the national finals in Mobile, Ala., in March. Top award there will be a \$10,000 scholarship. The contest is conducted under the sponsorship of the Jaycees.

Miss Mallette's pageant program will include a get-acquainted party tomorrow, personal interviews and rehearsals on Friday and a preliminary talent presentations at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Final judging will take place at 5 p.m. Sunday.

There's Good Reading For All This Week

Continuing our expanded news coverage during the blackout due to the strike of Metropolitan Detroit dailies, The Observer Newspapers offer many choice tidbits for your reading pleasure.

William Grace's Approach to Learning ... Page 4A
Two Simultaneous House Fires in Township ... Page 10A

N. Farmington Faculty, Students Have
Valleyball Meet ... Page 11A
Richard Tupper is Joyce's Distinguished Man Page 12A

Farmington Society Speaking ... Page 12B
Schoolcraft College students irked by firing of six teachers, Page 3A.

Michigan State University newspaper advocates legislation of marijuana, Page 3A.

Bentley High topples Plymouth in "Game of the Year", Page 2B.

A crossword puzzle for those who like to test skill, Page 10E.

Editorial comments, Page 10B.

Obituaries of Observerland residents, Page 12C.

What's doing in the Teen front, Page 14E.

Complete log of Television programs for week, Page 10C.

Income Tax tips — First of a Series aimed to help taxpayers, Page 5E.

LSJ Makes His Annual Report on State of the United States, Page 11B.

City Cops National Trophy

An accolade for having the second best all-around fire prevention program in the state of Michigan was handed the City of Farmington this week by the National Fire Prevention Association.

In addition, Farmington was ranked second nationally among cities with populations running between 5,000 and 20,000, and 24th on a national scale in competition with cities of unlimited populace.

On the state level, Farmington placed second only to the city of Detroit, with Wyoming, Lansing and Flint completing the top five.

Nationally, in its population bracket, Farmington was edged by North Bend, Ore., for first place. In the unlimited classification, Philadelphia and Baltimore finished one-two, but a ranking of 24th was hailed at

★ Please turn to page 11A

HE'S IN BUSINESS ON YOUR STREET



Your neighborhood boy is gaining valuable business training through his Observer route. The 40¢ you pay him each month for our new Carrier Subscription Plan assures his success in his first business venture. Be sure to ask for a receipt, which will guarantee delivery of The Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

A harrowing two hours in which he was the target both of daggers and bullets was retold this week by the 65-year-old secretary-treasurer of the Lacaille Winery in Farmington as police continued search for three thugs who staged a brazen holdup of the company Friday afternoon.

Virgil Laine, a slightly built, white-haired executive who is almost at the point of retirement, told how the hooded trio took control of the building at 31505 Grand River at 4:31 p.m., held seven employees captive until after 7 p.m., and in his own case used him as the "pigeon" in a game of "Russian roulette."

Already under medical treatment for a heart condition, Laine underwent further emergency care in the aftermath of the holdup.

He said that while he was a captive, knives had been drawn at him three times, a

pistol shot had missed his head by inches, and that finally "Russian roulette" had been employed by the gang in an attempt to make him divulge the whereabouts of further cash.

IN "RUSSIAN ROULETTE," a pistol is emptied of all but one shell. The chamber is then spun and the trigger pulled. On any spin, the odds are one in six that the remaining bullet will be fired. Laine said he suffered through this experience at least three times, beating the odds each time.

The three bandits escaped with close to \$1,000 in cash, according to a police estimate, but apparently thought the haul in their carefully timed robbery would be much greater.

In quest of more loot they broke open a company safe with a sledge hammer and victimized Laine and the six others until despairing. What money they did get came both from the

safe and from the wallets of the seven captives.

Besides Laine, those held prisoner in a storage room were Fritz Duerflinger, winemaker; Emmett Beene, night watchman; Paul Beene, janitor; Fred Ready, cashier; and Don Gould and Ralph Young, both drivers of Lacaille sales trucks.

According to Farmington Police Chief Robert Desmond, the last hourly employee of the Friday shift left the winery at 4:30 Friday afternoon.

ONLY A MINUTE later the three holdup men entered through the rear door with pistols drawn.

All three were identified as being Negroes and all three wore knitted ski hoods with openings only for the eyes, nose and mouth.

When they entered, Duerflinger, Ready, Laine and Emmett Beene were the only occu-

pants of the winery. They first were herded into a room at the back of the building, then an office at the front of the ground floor.

Paul Beene walked into their trap at about 6 p.m., unsuspectingly, and shortly afterward Gould and Young checked in at the completion of their truck routes.

As the group of captives grew from four to seven, the bandits continued their harassment, tore out telephone wires, fired several shots into wire displays, and rifled all office drawers.

No less than two of the trio always stood guard over the employees, Laine said.

The vehicle in which they drove away was not identified, and other police departments in the area have been requested to be on the lookout for the men. If apprehended, they will be charged with armed robbery.

At Winery: Burglars Hold Seven Hostages

Police Called Out To Maintain Order In Futurmill Strike

A strike by members of U. A. W. Local 540 at the Farmington Township manufacturing plant of Futurmill, Inc., this week resulted in police protection being given remaining employees while reporting to or departing from their jobs.

Friction between management and strikers reached a peak Monday when complaints of deflated tires, noise stream in the roadway and picket line jostling were received by township authorities.

The strike had been called four days earlier, on Jan. 18, when around-the-clock picketing was established at both gates of the facility on Haledale Rd. just south of I-96.

When Monday's office staff left the plant at 4:30 p.m. it was under cover of 25 township and county officers, including a unit of 10 mounted officers and two with police dogs.

This "show of force" had been assembled because of

rumors received by officials that an effort would be made to interfere with homework bound employees. As a result, there were no incidents of police action and pickets hurried nothing more than a few jeers.

Employees on their jobs were promised continued daily protection as long as deemed necessary.

THE ISSUE which has produced the strike is strictly economic, all non-economic differences having been resolved in bargaining which preceded expiration of the old contract.

Through a fellow member of the union, Local President Bob Taylor disclosed that a new three-year contract proposal had been turned down by a 92 to 2 vote of the membership. It was said that this offer would have cut the wage scale on 40 jobs, while extending across-the-board increases over three

years of 31 cents an hour to semi-skilled workers and 43 cents an hour to skilled hourly employees.

A letter which Futurmill President Robert G. Beale sent all employees, including strikers, on Monday declared:

"No one benefits from a strike. Your loss of pay and our loss of business can never be regained. The company stands to lose orders and this threatens your job security."

"Throughout the negotiations all non-economic issues have been resolved. During bargaining, Futurmill continuously was compared with the big three automotive companies. We are not an automotive company, and we are not big."

"We are an organization selling to other companies, not the general public. We are in direct competition with many other similar suppliers."

"We cannot increase the costs to our customers unless all the other competitors do

so or we lose the customer. We cannot pass increases on the way automotive companies do. As a matter of fact, during the past year we were forced to reduce some prices."

"WE CANNOT compete with the automotive companies in pay or benefits and those of you who own Futurmill stock know that our annual report did not reflect an unusually strong or profitable position."

"The company in bargaining offered you as much or more than has been agreed to by the union in its negotiations with other companies of our size."

"We believe it is time for you and your family to consider just what effect this strike can have. We hope you will come back to the bargaining table."

Union leaders told reporters they were ready to resume bargaining "any time the company wants to sit down."



STRIKE PROTECTION -- Under the watchful eye of armed police, workers at the Futurmill, Inc., plant in Farmington Township leave the

company parking lot as pickets from U.A.W. Local 540 watch in the background.