



**ALL ATTENTION** -- The audience at the Farmington YMCA's sex education series in Dunckel Junior High pays careful attention to Dr. Edwin Blumberg as he explains researched information to the teenagers. At the table in the back is the Rev. Carl F. Kaitreider, of Antioch Lutheran Church, the other resource person for the program.

## Residents Complain About Dogs

"We love dogs, but..." was the battle cry of three Farmington Township housewives this week as they carried their plea for greater control of dogs running loose in the area directly to the board of trustees.

The trio told Supervisor Curtis H. Hall and his colleagues that they are "dissatisfied with police enforcement," and protested that numerous complaints to township police had gone unheeded.

Voicing gripes which are common among many homeowners in the township were Mrs. Betty Whiting, 30018 S. Stockton; Mrs. Eileen Rutledge, 30023 S. Stockton; and Mrs. Pat Robson, 30011 S. Stockton. All are residents of the Westlake subdivision between Nine and 10 Mile Rds., east of the city.

"If we had four dog wardens it wouldn't be enough to keep all the dogs in our 26 square miles under control," conceded Hall.

Actually, he said, the so-called operation of "dog catcher" is an Oakland County function. However, local complaints to police are supposed to bring warnings to owners of loose dogs, with ordinance violation charges possible on repeated offenses.

Hall offered this advice to the women, apparently establishing it as an area-wide policy:

"If you will get the home addresses of dogs running loose and call my office, I will personally see to it that you get police action."

To Mrs. Whiting's complaint that "by the time we get a dog's address, the dog is gone," Hall answered, "Follow the dog home."

Other major items of the Jan. 22 meeting covered these subjects:

The trustees authorized purchase of 15 riot guns for spring delivery to augment the present armament of the township police department.

A letter from the county DPW suggesting that preliminary planning be started on the extension of water lines into the northwest quarter of the township was taken under advisement as Hall commented, "Any such project takes about two years lead time."

A request from police personnel that Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage be substituted for their current employee insurance was promised "study."

FRED LICHTMAN, township representative to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission, submitted a report covering 1967 activities and stated:

Lichtman told the trustees that 84 percent of the youngsters participating are from the township.

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## Mother's March Set

Preparations are already underway in Farmington City and Township for the Mothers' March for the March of Dimes. Dates of this year's march are March 23-30.

Mrs. Maribel Chalmers, 2937 Pipers Lane, chairman for the township and Mrs. Marion Wallace, 23688 Cass, chairman for the city, have been busy lining up area chairmen and block captains for this all-out fight against birth defects with which 250,000 babies are born each year.

Mrs. Wallace's 10 area chairmen are Mrs. Burt Knighton, Mrs. Dale Hill, Mrs. John Dinan, Mrs. Jan Fultz, Mrs. Martin McTeley, Mrs. James Williamson, Mrs. Arnold McGovern, Mrs. Ernest Smith, Mrs. Thomas McCutcheon, Mrs. Andrew Lim, Mrs. Arthur Koglin and Mrs. Robert Hoerbig.

Area chairmen working with Mrs. Chalmers are Mrs. Kathy Howard, Mrs. Nell Donovan, Mrs. Nancy Bergstrom, Mrs. Janet Larsen and Mrs. Tillis Dicks.

## Merlo Begins Sentence

John Merlo, the convicted killer of his 18-year-old wife in a Farmington Township beauty shop last January, began a life prison term Wednesday within hours after sentencing by Circuit Judge Farrell Roberts at Pontiac.

The 26-year-old slayer, who was found guilty of murder in the first degree by a jury Dec. 20, showed no emotion and made no comment as he heard Judge Roberts read the mandatory sentence Wednesday morning.

Oakland County sheriff's deputies transported Merlo to the State Prison at Jackson the same afternoon.

Defense attorney Daniel Devine has taken out the necessary legal papers for the filing of an appeal, according to court attaches.

Merlo shot his wife, Sharon Ann, of 19340 Gaylord, Redford Township, the morning of Jan. 6, 1967, while she was going about her work as a beautician in the Crest Salon, at Eight Mile Rd. and Rensselaire.

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