



Smith Outlines Challenges Ahead

By FRED DeLANO

Dr. Roderick J. Smith chose to look ahead at the awaiting challenge rather than recount successes of recent months as he began his second semester at the helm of the Farmington public school system Monday.

Responsible more than any other individual for the educational processes applying to more than 15,000 young people, the new superintendent sees as the most pressing issues:

1. Curriculum evaluation studies now in process by the academic staff.

2. The whole concept of school finance.

Dr. Smith refers to his first few months on the Farmington scene as having been an "introductory stage."

"It takes considerable time to get acquainted in a community and school system this size," reflected the superintendent in reviewing his first semester as successor to Gerald Harrison, who had been in the post 16 years before retiring. "But we did get our teeth into a few things."

"It is important to have happy teachers, and I believe we have good morale throughout the district as a result of contract negotiations completed late last summer."

"The fact that we were successful in our bond election for new schools helped make it easier to swallow the pill of defeat on the millage matter. School construction is very, very essential to our progress."

ON THE KEY but unglamorous academic front, Dr. Smith revealed that several curriculum studies to evaluate separate phases of Farmington's classroom program were started during the fall and will carry over into the spring semester.

In addition, a joint study committee representing both teachers and the Board of Education is at work on a multitude of school problems with, Dr. Smith declares, "no holds barred."

There's no mistaking the fact that an aura of accord and sense of accomplishment prevail within the school administration as a new semester begins. The big test lies ahead.

At the board's first February meeting, the administration expects to name personnel of its negotiating team which will be charged with working out a satisfactory new master agreement for 1968-69 with the teachers' union.

Teachers have not revealed what their salary demands will be, but all of Michigan learned last

summer how touchy the school wage negotiation problem can be. Those negotiations will begin in Farmington next month.

HAND IN HAND with the teacher salary question, is the broader problem of whether the board of education will go back to the voters this spring with another request for a property tax boost to offset steadily increasing operating costs. In November, voters soundly defeated a five-mill, 10-year proposal.

"The whole concept of school financing must be reviewed," declared Dr. Smith. "We don't know yet what our 1968-69 income will be, what state aid will be forthcoming, what the district equalization figures will be, or what wage settlement will be. We can't talk millage until we get some answers."

If nothing else, those answers are certain to add spice to Dr. Smith's second semester in Farmington.



READY FOR THE FUTURE -- Farmington Superintendent of Schools Dr. Roderick J. Smith, left, and Assistant Superintendent Marinus Van Ameyde, check building plans as the second

semester opens. In the months ahead, curriculum and financial problems will be given top priority by these two and their school administrative colleagues.



HONORED -- Mr. and Mrs. Delos Hamlin sit at the head table at a dinner honoring "A Silver Anniversary of Service" Friday in Southfield while Michigan's Lt. Governor William G. Milliken congratulates the chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

1,000 Turn Out To Honor Hamlin

Oakland County honored its personification of county government, Delos Hamlin, Friday night at a dinner honoring "A Silver Anniversary of Service" at the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. The dinner was billed as "A Silver Anniversary of Service" and marked the completion of 25 years of service by Hamlin as a member of the county board. For the past 12 years chairman of the county government body.

PRESENT at the dinner were representatives of the state, just about every governmental unit within the county and the chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. The crowd was placed at 1,000.

Lt. Governor William G. Milliken represented the state, while both of Oakland County's U.S. Congressmen, William Broomfield (18th District) and Jack McDonald (9th District) were in attendance. Representing Wayne County were Mel Ravitz, Detroit Councilman and chairman of the

ONE OF THE biggest presents of the evening was the announcement by Oakland University Chancellor D. Varner that the new dorm under construction on the OU campus would be dedicated as the "Delos Hamlin Hall."

We're Filling The News Gap

There's more news in this week's Observer than ever before as we continue our expanded coverage during the blackout caused by the strike of the Detroit Metropolitan dailies.

We tell of the new budget presented by President Johnson, of the squabble at Schoolcraft College over the firing of six instructors, doings of the Republican Party in the State Central Committee meeting in Plymouth, plus national, state and world roundups.

Trouble Continues in Futurmill Strike, Page 4A.

These Gals Aren't Bothered by Bad Driving Conditions, Page 5B.

YMCA Sex Education Sessions Reach 1,300 Families, Page 4A.

State Approves Bond Sale For Farmington Township Construction, Page 5A.

Traffic Accident Victim Fights For Life, Page 11A.

United States beefs up forces in Vietnam to counter strong offensive attack by Vietcong, Page 2A.

Schoolcraft College Board Refuses Open Meeting With Students to discuss sex dismissals of probationary teachers, Page 5A.

Schoolcraft Students Explain Why They Feel An Open Public Meeting is necessary to learn ramifications of firings, Page 3A.

\$ 300,000 Structure To Be 12th New Township Plant In Year

Ground was broken Tuesday for the 12th new plant to locate within Farmington Township in the past year. Completion date is scheduled for the spring.

Lorne Company Incorporated

Newsstand Prices To Rise

Beginning with the Sunday issue of Feb. 4 and the Wednesday issue of Feb. 7, the newsstand price of all Observer papers will be increased to 15 cents.

The price increase is necessary, Circulation Director Fred J. Wright explained, because of the continuing rise in the cost of printing and distributing a newspaper.

He emphasized that the increase would apply only to papers sold from newsstands, stores and Observer offices. Rates for carrier subscription plans will remain 40 cents a month.

The new rate will make it possible to supply more papers for newsstands, stores, where available copies have sometimes been sold out within a half hour, Wright said.

ported, mechanical contractors, broke ground for its new \$300,000 headquarters in the township's burgeoning industrial park.

The \$300,000 structure will be located in the Thompson Brown developed Farmington Freeway Industrial Park adjacent to the existing I-96 and I-696 freeways and the proposed I-275 freeway.

DESIGNED BY Straub, Van Dine and Brown Architects of Troy, the 19,200 square foot structure will be built by the Thomas Franke Construction Company.

Consisting of approximately 1,200 square feet of office and 12,000 square feet of shop and storage area, the building will house executive, administrative and production facilities for the Lorne Company which

also has branches in Flint and Atlanta, Ga.

Lorne Company has a business volume of more than \$15 million and specializes in piping of all kinds primarily in the commercial-industrial fields.

It has serviced architects, owners and general contractors in virtually every state east of the Mississippi. Prime services include plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, process and power piping.

"We instructed our architect," said L.R. Lyons, president of the firm, "to create a design that would provide an appropriate image for a firm that is concerned about its relations with its neighbors and society as a whole. This thinking was in keeping with our reasons for selecting as the new site the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park with its sensible restrictions geared to

guarantee lasting values to all participating industries and to maintain a park-like atmosphere."

THE OFFICE portion of the Lorne Building will include a conference room and private offices for principals as well as general secretarial space, plan room, estimating offices and employees' lunch room.

All offices will be fully carpeted. Executive offices and the conference room will be paneled, general offices will be finished with textured vinyl wall covering. Acoustic ceilings throughout will be a grid-type lay-in system coordinated with lighting fixtures and air diffusers.

Lorne Company was founded in 1921 by the present Board chairman M.W. Lorne and his brothers, F.S. Lorne and John Lorne.

and Mrs. Roger Begeron, of 24335 Ridgeway, Farmington, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bratton, 29585 Southbrook Lane, Farmington, respectively.

Rafina Contessa, of Chile, will be a student at Farmington High School. She will be guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCracken, 32321 Shawansee, Farmington.

Seven New Students Arrive

Seven new exchange students have arrived from South America to spend the second semester in Farmington schools.

Those attending Our Lady of Mercy, their countries are their American "sisters" are Brenda Russo from Uruguay, who will live with Diane Downey, 29044 Farmington Rd., Farmington; Pity Sorensen, of

Uruguay, who will live with Gail Crippen, of Detroit; Silvia Dreyfus from Brazil, who will stay with Nancy Weber, of Southfield; and Maria Christina de Sousa, of Brazil, who will stay with Pamela Howe, also of Southfield.

Carlos Medessa, of Uruguay, and Alida Talloni, of Chile, will attend Our Lady of Sorrows. They will live with Mr.

Police Blame Dense Fog For Vehicle Pileup On I-696 Freeway

Dense fog Monday afternoon was blamed for one of the worst multiple traffic accidents in Farmington Township history.



BURNED TO A CRISP -- Most badly damaged vehicle involved in Monday's multiple freeway accident was a 1966 Buick which burst into flames when struck. This shows the interior of the car after the fire was extinguished.

yet one in which police reported major injuries. At least 17 automobiles and trucks, with some estimates

running as high as 22 vehicles, were snared in the chain reaction jam on I-696, between Inkster and Middlebelt Rds.

Although property damage to the vehicles ran high, with one a total loss after being consumed by fire, township police said only two persons needed hospital treatment for injuries.

THE ACCIDENT started on the eastbound portion of the divided expressway, but collapsed on the westbound half of the highway soon followed when drivers slowed to gawk at the wreckage and became involved themselves in a series of rear end collisions.

The heavy fog reduced visibility to a few hundred feet when the first incident occurred at 1:30 p.m., and traffic in both directions was tied up for two hours.

It took seven wreckers, a crew from the Farmington township fire department, and officers of the township, Southfield, sheriff's patrol and Mich-

igan State police to clear the double highway.

The pileup started when Warren Moses, 59, of Lima, O., who was headed west on the expressway, attempted to make a U-turn with a box-car-size truck of the National Transit Co.

In attempting to drive across the median, Moses became stuck in the mud and tipped over. He lit a flare and attempted to stop eastbound traffic for assistance, and that's when the rapid fire chain reaction collisions started.

First driver to stop was Richard Thibodeau, 46, of Mt. Clemens. His Chevrolet was struck by a truck driven by John DeBols, 40, of Wayne. This truck, in turn, was rammed by a van driven by John Flowers, 35, also of Wayne.

All of these vehicles were eastbound, toward Detroit.

MEANWHILE, an unidentified westbound driver slowed to



STARTED EXPRESSWAY PILEUP -- When the driver of this large truck attempted to make a U-turn on I-696 Monday, the vehicle wound up

in this position, prompting a series of chain reaction collisions on both the eastbound and westbound segments of the freeway.

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