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today's hot line

A suspected case of hepatitis involving a Cambridge Junior High School student in Garden City caused alarm among parents of an epidemic, but the later was ruled out late Friday by Acting Deputy Director George Pickett of the Wayne County Health Dept. "We don't believe the case is hepatitis," he told the Observer, "and, it is a very mild case involving one family. There hasn't been an epidemic of hepatitis in Wayne County since the 1950's," he added.

observerland

REDFORD — Police are still searching for a young white man, about 5' 8", 150 pounds, with dark hair, who shot a 51-year-old service station attendant after ordering the victim to his knees. Cool conversation with the man was followed by a demand for money, a pistol whipping and then the single shot. Wounded in the face, the attendant is recovering satisfactorily.

LIVONIA — A wooden bridge crossed daily by 350 children at Botsford Elementary School, 19515 Lathers, was the subject of a dispute this week between an irritated group of Livonia mothers and the city council. Mothers said that to call the bridge and its steep eroded access hazardous was "putting it mildly." Councilmen took action to improve the crossing by regrading and blacktopping.

LIVONIA — A meeting of the Livonia PTA Council and its 38 school presidents and their executive boards will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. at the board of education offices on Farmington at Five Mile. PTA officers will be briefed on the controversial non-public school aid bills now in the State House and Senate. Mrs. Arvid Varblan, council president, said Friday the council is on record as opposing the non-public school state aid legislation.

PLYMOUTH — School Superintendent James Rossmann, who also is president of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, has called a special meeting of that group in Lansing on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the controversial non-public school aid bill. The group will stake a stand on the issue.

PLYMOUTH — The City Charter Study Committee, after six months of work, has recommended 30 revisions in the city charter, but, ironically, ignored the taxpayer provision for elected officials that has been proven unconstitutional and is now before the State Supreme Court.

What's Inside

After 30 years of dormancy, high school girls' competitive sports are making a comeback in suburban schools. Story and pictures on page 1B.

Two area streams — part of the Huron River and the Johnson Drain — are being recommended for trout-level protection by the state Water Resources Commission, but conservation interests want to see more trout waters in Observerland. Page 7B.

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up coming

WEDNESDAY — A petition drive is starting for a constitutional amendment to change Michigan's method of nominating candidates for judgeships. See the Public Affairs Page.

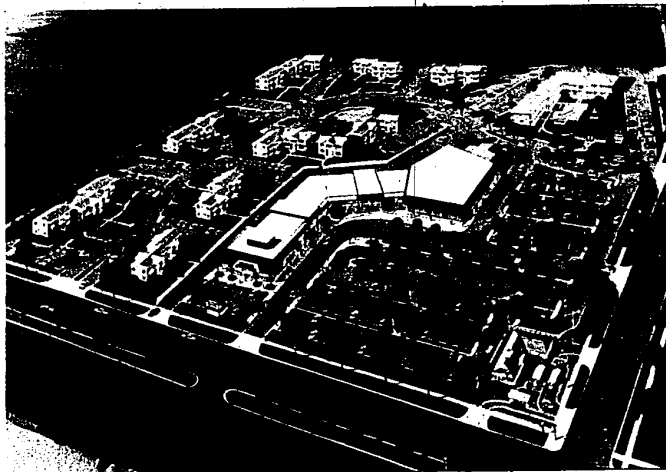
NEXT SUNDAY — Wayne State University, once a collection of city colleges in ramshackle buildings, has been transformed by the state into an urban university that's an architectural marvel. On the Picture Page.

DUCK FANCIER?

Like something unusual in a pet? Check want ad classification 6-5. Or perhaps you already own a duck and want to know how to keep him happy. (Pet services are classification 6-6.) If you'd like to sell him dial GA 2-9000 or 453-5500 and put him in an Observer Want Ad!



\$5 Million Complex Approved For Grand River-Halstead Rd.



APPROVED — The Farmington City Council has approved the rezoning changes necessary for the construction of this \$5 million project at the corner of Halstead and Grand River. The architect's sketch looks south-east from the corner of Hal-

stead and Grand River. A motel will be constructed at the exit to the I-96 expressway with a neighborhood shopping center located just north of it. The corner parcel has already been rezoned for the construction of a gas station.

Motel, Stores, Apartments Are Included

A \$5 million apartment and business development has received its final clearance from the Farmington City Council. The necessary rezoning of 19 of the 26-acre parcel was adopted by the Farmington City Council Monday night.

Developer of the project, which will be located at the corner of Halstead Rd. and Grand River is the Standard Construction Company.

INCLUDED in the development will be an estimated 170 one and two-bedroom apartments, a neighborhood shopping center, and a 100-room motel complete with a restaurant.

Plans call for the inclusion of a supermarket, a junior department store and a series of specialty stores in the shopping center.

A total of 14 acres was zoned for commercial use with the rest receiving the apartment classification. The apartment complex will include a community building and a swimming pool. A swimming pool will also be included in the motel facility which will span three to four acres.

APPROVAL of the rezoning increased the number of apart-

ment units scheduled for construction in the Grand River-Halstead area.

George Pastor, developer of the Chatham Hills Subdivision, has obtained the necessary zoning change to construct apartment buildings along Grand River at the north end of the Chatham Hills development.

On the township side of Grand River stands the Independence Green apartment development.

THE EAST LINE of the development backs up to the park development planned for Chatham Hills, while the south line of apartments will be about the single family homes of Chatham Hills.

The southeast corner of Halstead and Grand River is owned by the Shell Oil Company. It has already been zoned for the construction of a gasoline station.

In the rezoning, the apartment development is being used as a buffer to the commercial development at the extreme west end of the property and the residential homes to the east.

Standard Construction Co. built the Farmington West Apartments in the city and the Kendallwood apartments in the township.

Protest Council Gets Letter Moving On Use Of Pesticides Pupils

Fifty-four fifth grade pupils were transferred from Middle Belt Elementary School to the 10 Mile School two miles away Thursday, and the move immediately brought protests from parents of the children involved.

However, there appeared no likelihood that the decision would be rescinded by the central administration of the school system.

Administrative Assistant Byron Oliver pointed out that enrollment at Middle Belt had reached 677 students, with more pupils anticipated during the spring semester from families moving into the area. The school's capacity supposedly is only 650 students.

"The school was becoming so overcrowded it became imperative to relieve the load," said Oliver, "and the most practical solution was to transfer the necessary students all from one grade."

All of the pupils involved still are being bused to Middle Belt school at the same time, and from the same pick-up points, as before.

The use of pesticides and DDT to control the Dutch Elm disease and their effect on wild life and animals came under discussion at Monday night's session of the Farmington City Council.

A letter from Grover Neigarth of Drake Rd., Farmington, was read which requested the city to explore means of controlling the disease other than spraying with DDT and Dieldrin.

Road Squawks
Invited Feb. 28

Another "citizens' protest" meeting concerning the condition of rural roads throughout Oakland County will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, in Gilt School.

The session will be open to all who wish to participate in formulating a positive program aimed at urging the Oakland County Road Commission and Farmington Township officials into undertaking a repair program during the current fiscal year.

Niergarth, a biologist, told the council that he had become concerned about the long range effects of DDT in the past few months.

The spray, he said, tends to accumulate in living plants and animals and is carried by wind and rain. It does not break down or lose its killing effectiveness easily, he added.

Niergarth provided the council with some literature describing other means of controlling the disease and suggested that the city contact the

Kalamazoo Nature Center for further information.

THE COUNCIL directed City Manager John Dinn to explore other types of application for the trees and report back to the council.

The city has been named as a co-defendant in a suit filed by the Environmental Defense Fund, Inc., seeking to halt the use of DDT. The case is actually filed against the Michigan Department of Agriculture and nine cities and villages in the state.

Uniformity Is Goal Say Tax Assessors

If there is one word which is stressed by property assessors and all other public officials who figure in the tax equalization process throughout Michigan, it is "uniformity."

At the moment, owners of the approximately 21,000 parcels of land in Farmington city and township are more "assessments conscious" than ever, almost all having seen assessments of their holdings adjusted upward in 1968.

"GEORGE CLEMENT and Robert Romer, chief assessing officers in the city and township respectively, have been besieged the past two weeks with individual inquiries from property owners wondering how their assessments were reached."

Clement, Romer and their staffs, in taking the more inquisitive through the full process, start with the "bible" of their profession, the assessor's manual published by the State Tax Commission. In this volume are spelled out the rules which govern the assessment of property.

Continued On Page 3

Neighbors Near Open Basement Cry, 'Hazard'

A 30-year-old hole in the ground gave Farmington Township officials the edge this week as neighbors renewed protests that it is a hazard to children, while the radio preacher who owns the land asked only for patience until he packs up his family, bag and baggage, for more friendly climes.

The dispute which has engulfed families on Waldron Ave., between Grand River and Shawansee, centers on an unfinished basement which has stood as an "attractive nuisance" since before World War II.

The original owner intended to build a house there, but ran out of money after the basement had been dug and the foundation laid, according to old time neighbors. Location of the open pit is 2550 Waldron, and last year this parcel and the accompanying house was bought by the Rev. M. J. Haight.

He did not explain, however, why the township has waited

since 1938 to take the bit in its teeth.

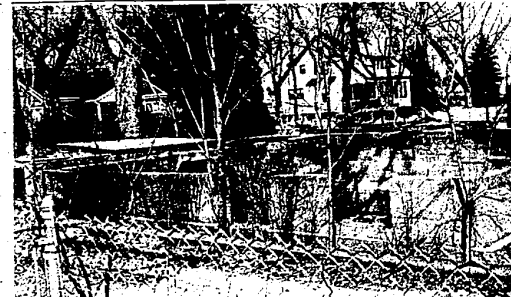
MRS. WALTER PIECHOWSKI, of 21566 Waldron, who lives immediately south of the eyecore, declared, "I have lived on this street for at least 30 years, and that open cellar has been there ever since I can remember."

Mrs. Donald Buss, of 21628 Waldron, just to the north of the questioned hole in the ground, said she has three small children and fears for their safety because of the basement whenever the youngsters are playing outdoors.

Both Mrs. Buss and Mrs. Piechowski have voiced complaints to the township, claiming the situation is one which holds dangerous possibilities for children.

On the other hand, Rev. Haight declares that if the neighbors will let him alone, he and his family will soon move away.

Neighbors complain — This unfinished basement has stood for an estimated 30 years on Waldron Ave. in Farmington Township, and now the complaints of residents in the neighborhood have awakened authorities to the hazard. For the safety of children, it has been reported by township officials that the pit must either be fenced or filled as a safety precaution.



Scout Earns Marian Award

On the afternoon of Sunday Feb. 4, Mary Ellen Kivir, Senior Scout Troop 258, received the highest merit award to Catholic Girl Scouts for outstanding achievement in her faith.

Fr. Thomas Bissonnette held a Scriptural service on that day in honor of the Blessed Virgin at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington, and during the service he blessed the Marian Award Medal and presented it to Mary Ellen.

Present at the service were Mary Ellen's family and friends, her Senior Advisor, Mrs. Bridget Reagan, and her two sisters, as well as girls from her troop and members of the parish.

AN APPLICANT for this award must compile a notebook of answers to questions in the Marian Award handbook. These questions deal with the fundamentals of her faith as well as personal essays on vocations, pilgrimages etc.

The girl must also give her own evaluation of what she has

learned from this experience, this work and study usually takes about two years.

OLS In Tourney

Our Lady of Sorrows debate team is competing in the state semi-final debate tournament at the University of Michigan after chalking up a win in the regional tournament held last Saturday at Eastern Michigan University.

The regional win brought a total of 11 trophies to Sorrows.

Members of the team are John Abow, Brian Pollins, Jim Mitchell and Gary Mastick. Their coach is Sister Michaela.

Sorrows team tied Country Day in the regional competition with a record of 5-1.

Debate topic in this week-end's tournament is the one used throughout all this season's competition: Should the federal government establish uniform regulations for combating crime?