Farmington ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

FARMINGTON THRU **BIFOCALS**

By FRED DEL'AND

IF I WERE TO TELL YOU that I have spent this week at Thayer's, known locally as a funeral home, no doubt you would ask me whether I got the job, for rumor has gone around that my cadaverous form would be ideal for display purposes to prove the homey touch of a final resting box. Howard and I both resent the charge. He wouldn't stoop that low, and if he did I would sock it to him.

But aboard a United States Air Force jet Tuesday, flying from Selfridge Field to West Point, I did give pause to a few thoughts about modes of dying, naming of beneficiaries, method of distribution of remaining vitals, et cetera.

On top of that, I have been a resident for several days of West Point's nearby Thayer Hotel.

WHEN THEY TUCKED ME IN Tuesday at

WHEN THEY TUCKED ME IN Tuesday at the Thayer, and I wrote in my diary, it was with emphasis upon my two closest friends who had seen me off. Such fellowship is touching. It deserves repayment in kind, and I am searching for a method.

serves repayment in kind, and I am searching for a method.

You see, with fullness of heart these mates who have seen me through thick and thin generously took out an airline insurance policy on dear did Fred, naming themselves the recipients in case the airship jockey should be thrown from his mount.

That instance came a couple of years ago when I chose Edgar (Doc) Green of the Detroit News, one of the world's best newspaper writers, as a supplementary entry in a ghoul pool.

I already had what looked like a good candidate, one who was spitting blood on the hour, but Doc seemed at the moment to be worth an added \$1 as a truly live (!) prospect, and anyway I needed the quick dough he might bring. It turned out that I was the only loser, both tickst still being in circulation and doing well.

So of course, if you didn't know, in a ghoul pool you collect the total pot only when your nominee ficks in for keeps, everyone else sweetening the fitty another skin with each pay-off to keep the gamble going. It's a hiarious office pastime.

JUST TO SHOW YOU WHAT FUN it can be there was this time the guy on the next stool kept insisting I keep joining him in additional malteds until neither of us could recite the U.S. vice-presidents backwards, and I wondered why.

Thank JC's

EDITOR:
The senior citizens of Farmington wish to thank the Farmington Jaycees who entertained them so royally at lunch April 20 at Greenfield Village, A total of 58 members of the group attended.

Again, a big thank you for the Jaycees' kindness and thought-

THE PIONEER GOLDEN AGE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF FARMINGTON

To Attend Meet

Dr. Richard Wilson, provest of the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, will attend the "Focus '88" conference on community col-lege instructional administra-tion at Delta College May 16 and 17.

ROBERT J. KELLT, Allerbey 1911 Grand River Avenue Farmingies, Michigas 4824 STATE OF MICHIGIAN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CASLAND No. 85,187 ESTATE OF GEORGE O. WAITE DECEMBER.

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presidents backwards, and I wondered why.

The answer came to light when he commented, casual like, "I've just joined a ghoul pool."

Applauding his stroke of genius, because very member eventually makes a score at the community till, I academically inquired whom he had put in the box?

"You," he smiled, reaching for the tab with a gesture of finality.

Thanks to the ability of Tuesday's Air Force jockey, that guy's still waiting to get his dividend and so are my two insurance pals. What the latter pair don't know is that secretly I took out a superfeding policy and left it all to Bobby Kennedy's ampaign. Help those that need it, say I.

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Confusion Clouds Millage Requests

It's a bad time to seek a tax increase.

Locally, the Farmington Schools have run into trouble from the voters.

In Washington, LBJ has his troubles with Congress and with the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

What makes this time worse than any other to seek a tax hike?

LOCALLY IT'S a combination of inflation and the rising cost of living, the new state income tax, the proposed hike in the City of Detroit's Income tax and the reassessments which hit every property owner this year.

In June the voters of the Farmington

In June the voters of the Farmington School District will be asked to approve a four mill increase in the school tax.

A one mill increase for general road maintenance and improvement has been placed on the August ballot in Oakland County.

The pros and cons of both issues will be discussed and debated at another time. It is not the purpose of this column to get into that aspect of the problem.

Rather, we call your attention to a

call your attention to a

c hart prepared by the Farmington Schools on the local property tax picture. The 1957-88 (this year's) tax is listed in one column with the projection of what next year's taxes would be. For the purposes of illustration, a house with a \$20,000 market value is used.

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IF YOUR HOME is assessed at more than \$10,000 (50 per cent of the market value), simply take the figures shown and multiply them out.

What the chart does show is that, in the township, the tax hike for the coming year would be less than \$60 on that \$20,000 home if no additional millage is approved. This is a far cry from the figures some people have been using when talking about how much their taxes have increased.

In the city the increase is slightly more than \$60 on that same house if the City Coun-



i JOSPH MINJOE has been named assistant administrative officer of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Services Board, From 1964 until his appointment to the Board in May, 1968, Minjoe served as a systems analyst for the Oakland County Board of Auditors.

Letters Appreciation

To the People of Farming-

Sandra's accident and death were a deep shock to us. The sympathy and gifts of so many, some of whom we aren't even acquainted with, were a great comfort.

These expressions of interest help to sustain us during our difficult time. THE WILBERT H. CISCHKE

edy.

cil lowers the levy by one mill. The council members are expected to take this action when setting the levy. Reasoning in city hall for the reduction is the increase in assess-

BASICALLY, THE TAX increase questions come down to the point of how much you are willing to pay. You get what you pay for.

Whatever your decision, the basic responsibility remains to compute just what your taxes will be and not to listen to discussions about HOW MUCH the local tax levy has

gone up. We don't deny that the tax bill will be larger. However it won't be as large as many people think.

Once the smoke about this issue clears, then the people will have the opportunity to make an intelligent, informed decision on both the school millage request and the county road millage proposal.

We hope they do so. __Sue Shaushnessy.

-Sue Shaughnessy

Farmington People Like Their 'Ducky' Friends

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Urbanization hasn't yet driven the ducks away from the puddle in the field on Farmington Rd. between Alta Loma and Nine Mile, in the middle of town

Loma and Nine Mile, in the Mile of town.

The Mallards aren't there all the time but they can occasionally be seen peacefully floating around the puddle while trucks, fire engines, motorcycles, ambulances, cars with cracked mufflers and what-all go clanging past on Farmington Rd. less than 10 feet away.

than 10 feet away.

OTHER MORE sensible ducks can be found all over Farmington.
Probably the 13 ducks out at Independence Green have it the most posh. This complex at Halstead and Grand River has some man-made ponds bordered by the rolling greensward of a golf course.

The Independence Green ducks are more certain of a meal ticket than those in the city puddle.
The most we've seen fed to the urban duck dwellers is an occasional hunk of popcorn tossed to them by one of the kids who like to wade through the puddle on their way home from school.

RESIDENTS of several subdivi-sions which have streams claim they have ducks that come back year after year — the same ducks.

some of these people are so certain they are the same feathered friends they have named the creatures.

Because we had a few doubts about this, we talked to James Drake, curator of birds at the Detroit Zoo.

It seems the bird lovers are right.

DRAKE SAID that ducks will return to areas familiar from other years if there is a food source.

And the ducks will defend this area against members of their own species who might want to take over.

Given a qualified life span of 10 years, a duck could become a family pet for a Farmington family.

Of course there are nearards.

Of course there are hazards.
Take the case of the pet duck who
lived with a family in Old Homestead
last year. He became a tasty morsel,
even without orange sauce for a
Beagle, "Gilbert," who makes his
home next door. Beagle, "Gilbert," home next door.

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IT IS INTERESTING, to note that Websters has 15 listings under "duck" and its derivations.

The listing includes such things as the games of "duckpins" and "ducks and drakes."

Best of all, we like the final listing for "ducky—slang meaning excellent, pleasing, delightful."

People in Farmington might be said to have found that ducks are "ducky." We would like to thank our neighbors and friends in Farm-ington for their great concern at the time of our recent trag-



'A CHILD'S FLOWER - Dandelions have been the bulk of bouquets taken to parents and teachers for years. This spring is no exception with the annual blooming of the crop. Brenda Zanke of Farmington Township enjoys the fragrance of the springtime flower.

Contest Looms School

There will be a contest for at least one seat in the Farmington School election June 10 members of the Farmington with the sanouncement of Gary Board of Education, the voters to Lichtman for one of the will be asked to approve a

four year posts.
Incumbents George Nahstoll and Richard Peters have filed their petitions at the Farmington Board of Education.

Lichtman, 29, of 32729
Meadowlark, is a sales
representative for the Untiversal Match Co. He has two
children, both of whom attend
Flanders Elementary School.

Deadline for filing nominat-ing petitions is 4 p.m. Monday, May 13, in the office of Super-intendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith. A total of 20 sig-natures are required to place

four mill operational tax in-crease for a 10 year period and elect three members of the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College,

Bill Says:

IGNORANCE

Keep us in mind — We're easy to find.

Dedicated Service for 100 years.

FARMINGTON INSURANCE AGENCY CLAPPISON and CONROY

Tax Figures

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the confusion existing over the tax bills and the reassessments, The Farmington Enterprise & Observer in cooperation with the Farmington Schools, publishes the following breakdown.

It must be remembered that this is merely a projection of the 1988-89 taxes as the actual levy has not been made. One modification should be noted. City Manager John Dinan has recommended and Council approval is expected of a 10 mill levy for the 1988-89 fiscal year. This would amount to a drop of \$10 in the tax bill outlined.

The following examples represent typical residences in the city and township and comparison of taxes for the two years. Any other home would have similarities in the same ratio of market value.

FARMINGTON TWP. TAX COMPUTATION:

Market Value		\$2	0,000	\$2	. 000,0
Assessed Valuation			4,350		0,750
Equalization Factor		x 2.01		x 0.93	
State Equalized Valuation		\$ 8,740		\$10,000	
F'ton Public Schools	32.40	\$	283.00	\$	324.00
County Govt. &					
Int. Sch. Dist	9.20		80.00		92.00
F'ton Twp. & Library	. 4.70		41.00		47.00
Total	46.30	\$	404.00	\$	463.00
Additional Millage Proposi	al 4.00				40.00
GRAND TOTAL	50.30			\$	503.00
	,	-			

CITY OF FARMINGTON TAX COMPUTATION:

W. BLOOMFIELD TWP. TAX	COMPU	FATION:
Market Value	\$20,000	\$20,000
Assessed Valuation	10,000	10,000
Equalization Factor	x 1.0	x 1.0
State Equalized Valuation	10.000	10.000
F'ton Public Schools 32.20	\$ 322.00	\$ 322,00
County and Int.		
School Dist 9.20	92.00	92.00
W. Bloomfield Twp 2.40	24.00	24.00
Total 43.80	438.00	438,00
Additional Township 2.00		20.00
Additional F'ton		
Public Schools 4.00		40.00
TOTAL 49.80		498,00

May 25 Deadline To Enter Parade

Organized units and groups wishing to participate in Farmington's Memorial Day Parade are requested to obtain permission prior to May 25.

Information may be obtained from Parade Chairman Arnold F. McGovern (GR 4-768): Deputy Chairman James Johnson (KE 4-7313) or Parade Marshal Joseph Gibbons (EL 6-2265).

Parade floats must represent a theme in keeping with the occasion and receive approval from the Parade Committee.



at 14 Mile Road Phone 626-2505

STATE FARM Instruct Companies Beam Offices: Bloomington



