

FARMINGTON

THRU ... BIFOCALS

By FRED DELANO

FARMINGTON DEMOCRATS (and the number seems to be swelling) were in a party mood the night this week which, ere it ended, was to see the writing of another chapter in that eventual tome, "The Rise and Fall of the American Empire."

The occasion was the fifth annual banquet of the Farmington Democratic Club. While it never was explained why the affair was being held in West Bloomfield Township, the setting in the Centaur Farm dining area did lend itself to frequent jokes about Republicans, for throughout the evening numerous horses kept prancing about on the opposite side of a glass partition and that can be pretty funny stuff to a politician.

This is not to say, of course, that were the tables reversed Republicans wouldn't use the same source material for their own wit. This is just part of the game.

It's a game which is getting too damned far out of hand in this country, but when these get-togethers are on the same neutral note as Tuesday's the amount of fun to clean family fun.

The Democrats offer one extra and rather interesting aspect at their affairs. They're always able to laugh at themselves a bit, and this the GOP rarely does. Whether there's more to laugh at, or about, is for historians to say.

STATE SENATOR ROGER CRAIG, of Dearborn, a pretty good jester in his own right, turned out to be the night's principal orator and what the man had to say on the serious side made a lot of sense. He turned his colleagues in the Legislature to a fair-thee-well, but in doing it he stood tall with a willingness to be counted.

The thing he talked about most was "the urban crisis," and we'll assume here that the phrase needs no defining.

My colleagues would look for causal factors which precipitated last summer's problems, and then try to find the answers," said the senator.

"But what we did not do was address ourselves to first causes of behavior."

"THE OPEN HOUSING bill passed by the Legislature was only a shallow victory," Craig told an intent audience, "and the price we paid for that piece of legislation was incredible."

Then, striking out at both parties, the senator declared, "We were required to trade passage of bill after bill delegating legislative authority to police and other local officials." This is what he called the "price" of the open housing act.

"If the American dream of equality means anything at all, it means equality of education and the elimination of oppression," said the Dearborn attorney.

"We are ignoring the basic problem facing this nation by relying on private enterprise to solve ghetto housing and to give the people jobs," he said, "but it is said, 'white establishment' really wants these problems solved they will be solved. We have a moral obligation to do so."

Craig's lecture drew a hearty response, and one that was far more enthusiastic than Republican listeners might have proffered the same speech. Had it not been for that glass partition between Democrats and the horses, a sampling of GOP reaction might have been available on the spot.

Briar Hill NEWS

Fran Mann, 626-5946

Congratulations to Janice Young of Old Bedford on being awarded a scholarship from the Chrysler Corporation Fund. She has chosen to attend the University of Michigan and plans to major in biology or drama—or pursue her art career. A talented lady is Miss Young.

I made an error in listing the families leaving Briar Hill and included the Echols family of Ravenscroft who were surprised to hear they were leaving. But I did see a "sold" sign at the Douglas home on Northwick so Gloria and Jack will be saying goodbye to Briar Hill along with many others.

Our condolences to Shirley Cramer on the death of her father the latter part of May. The family went to Wisconsin for the services.

THE 11th ANNUAL Duncle Junior High School Concert was held May 24 and 25. The production was titled "Here Comes the Showboat" and Nancy Bramlage had a featured role. There were many other youngsters from Briar Hill helping with the scenery, costumes, production and singing in the different groups.

Marge and Bob Scott, of Ravenscroft, along with former Briar Hill residents, Peg and Rote Balow, drove to Fort Francis, Ontario, where they were flown into the wilds of "Canada." They pitched their tent, caught lots of fish and almost froze.

They had a little bit too much excitement when a bear invaded the camp one day. He was mean with hammer, the Balows were out fishing and the Scotts had a jump in the motorboat and "because the motor wasn't running, they rowed down-river for help and later the bear had to be shot because he was with a motorboat.

They were gone from May 17 till May 25—saw beautiful scenery, and lots, like us at home, had lots and lots of rain.

LAST TUESDAY was the day that Martha Crockett, of Farmington, planned a surprise birthday luncheon for her mother, Mrs. Freda Gano, with the aid of Mrs. Marsh, a friend, Mrs. Gano was thinking of going to California but will be here for the month of June and then will start traveling.

Seven families vacated Briar Hill for a long Memorial Day camping-out at Sugar Loaf in the Waterloo State Recreation Area near Chelsea. Those participating were Mickey and Joe Colombato, Marge and Al McPherson, Bev and Bob Selzer, Carol and George Petronio, Deany and Pat Pattison, Marge and Bob McMath and Ann and Ted Kleinhans from Canterbury.

The men drove up on Tuesday evening taking trailers, campers and tents—and then came back on Wednesday, collecting wives and 29 children. The McCarthy and Matthews families on Memorial Day to share in the fun. There was swimming, fishing, bridge-playing, and general confusion mixed with rain and sunshine.

THURSDAY EVENING, June 13, is graduation night at North Farmington High School and many of our young people will be wearing caps and gowns.

Those graduating are Dave Douglas, Jan Young, Ellen Gahan, Kathy Holmes, Tom Martilla, John MacLeod, Mary Kay Durr, John Mann, Gail Elting, Robin Murphy, Rick Braunreuther, Deloy Echols, Bob Green, Bob Green, Mark Hardin, Mike Homier, Kathy Numan, Diane O'Neill, Nancy Peck, Glen Reimer, Carol Swanket, Sue Wichman and Wendy Carr. Congratulations to all and best wishes for a most happy future.

Ex-Superintendent Asks Millage Approval

EDITOR: My retirement after 21 years of service in the Farmington Public Schools, I have felt that I must be very discreet about any direct involvement in the operation of the schools. However, because of the urgency of the millage election on June 10, I feel compelled to make the following statement.

Over six months before my retirement I prepared for the Board of Education projections of the funds needed to operate the schools over the next five year period. My projections showed the need for an additional five mills for the 1968-69 school year. This projection took into consideration approximately the same student growth and increase in valuation as has actually occurred. The board is able to levy one additional mill for operation and decrease the debt levy by one mill as authorized by the voters in 1965. However, they have no other means of levying the additional four mills required except by a favorable vote of the school electors on June 10.

I know from experience that our Board of Education is a very dedicated group who will provide the best educational program for the boys and girls of the community that funds will make possible. I also know that they accept their responsibility seriously and that they will always try to operate the school district within the funds that are available.

I trust that the electors of the district will get out to vote on June 10 to provide the Board of Education with the funds that they need if they are to maintain the excellent program that I am sure the people of this community really want.

GEORGE V. HARRISON
Retired Superintendent of Schools

EDITOR: I have found the lack of response to your recent headline, "Schools Warn of Crisis in Sports, Arts, Transportation," very significant. The drastic measures outlined in the edition of Sunday, May 5, require the help of every citizen interest and comment.

Perhaps the critical world situation has caused the importance of a chance to become an artist or musician to seem rather unimportant. However, the measures the Board of Education has outlined are drastic.

EDITOR: I am a concerned citizen and taxpayer. Like everyone else, I am concerned about taxes and just how much a person can be asked to give up in the form of dollars for taxes. My most immediate concern, however, regards the education of my children and their preparation for the increasingly complex world they will have to face in the future.

On June 10, the property owners in the Farmington Public School District will decide whether or not the Board of Education shall be authorized to levy up to an additional four mills property tax for the operation of our schools.

To a family owning a home with a market value of \$30,000, four mills represents a tax increase of \$60 per year. Since most of us, in order to pay our taxes through escrow account with a mortgage company, this would result in a \$5 per month increase in our monthly home payment.

If you have two children attending the public schools, this is less than a penny per child per day, much less than you need to spend for a daily newspaper when there was such a thing.

It is interesting to note that the total tax rate of 32.4 mills in the Farmington Public School District has not been increased since 1963. During this period the number of students has increased by over 4,000, yet the tax rate has remained the same without lowering the high caliber of education we have come to expect and enjoy.

This does not include, however, the cost of the new pool for operation of swimming pools and auditoriums which will not be levied until they are completed and in use.

Anyone watching the very fine parade on Memorial Day and seeing block after block of Boy and Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Campfire Girls, Y-Teen Princesses, etc., pass by, should have my doubts in his mind erased as to why we need more money to operate our schools; we simply have more children to educate and in this inflationary period, the cost of educating each child is steadily on the increase.

The need for additional operational millage has not come about within the past year. It

Six At NFH Named Winners

Five North Farmington High School students won commendation and one won honorable mention in the Detroit News Scholastic awards competition. Commendation certificates

Wood Creek Farms

ANNE M. PHILLIPS
MA. 6-335

Eddie and Wilma Carden went to Florida May 10 to look for a home in that state. They found nearly as much as I did about now have a second home there. They returned May 22 to be here for Loni's birthday.

RALPH and MARIAN Zahner, with daughter Barbara, went to California last month. They visited friends in Los Angeles before going to Las Vegas, N.M., where Ralph attended a Public Works Convention. While there they saw Sue Morgan and her twins. Many of you remember her as they lived for sometimes in the home now occupied by the Perrys.

John Wendling with six other Farmington friends drove down to Indianapolis for the races. The two car bands left here on Wednesday and returned right after the races on Thursday. It was certainly thrilling for them as for so many others.

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION meeting was held last Tuesday in the home of Nancy Brassart, Lee Kay and Grace Fishbein. The co-hostesses and served a delicious dessert.

Our president, Marian Lam, had a tremendously fine program. Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the future Farmington Area Study Committee, came out to discuss with us township, county and school finances as they relate to the current school millage proposal. There should have been more than 20 of us present for he

were received by Kicba Castaneda-Mendez, Terri Kushner, Larry Leblanc, Doug Moravski and Tim Shaw. Tom Moher won honorable mention.

Students Receive Susan Grants

Susan McKelvey, of Farmington High School, and Cathy Brown of North Farmington High, were awarded beginning scholarships by the Farmington Education Association at a meeting on June 6.

The daughter of Mrs. Marshall McKelvey, 22509 Hawthorne, Farmington, Miss McKelvey plans to attend Western Michigan University. Miss Brown, the daughter of Mrs. J.W. Brown, 30181 Ardmore, Farmington, plans to attend Oakland University.

The association awarded continuing scholarships to Sharon Saja, Richard Belanger, Catherine Soullanian, Jeanne Bachelor, Michael Bensinger and Margaret Brown.

Allen Yoss, a past recipient of an FEA continuing scholarship, will complete his studies at Michigan State this summer and plans to work for L.B.M. Gayle Humm, another recipient, has just finished her senior year at Western Michigan.

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