

## More Than 10 Per Cent!

# Teachers Press Hikes

FARMINGTON  
Farmington teachers will ask Tuesday for substantial 1969-70 wage increases, higher than they've won the past few years.

Tuesday's bargaining session will be the last before July's annual recess for Farmington Education Association, representing the teachers, and the administration team, representing the board of education, are still at odds over several key non-salary issues.

THE FEA will present the salary package Tuesday as school board members may study it before talks resume in August.

Starting salary for teachers is currently \$6,800.

This year's negotiations have thus far gone considerably beyond the timeline of previous years. Last year, for instance, the salary package was presented on April 11.

Robert Neuhauser, FEA president, blames the administration team for "purposely stalling to back us into a corner."

Teachers have voted both in an FEA meeting and by signed petitions not to work unless a new contract is signed by August

when their present contract expires. However, a strike would be a radical move likely to split off some FEA members.

LeRoy Bartman, spokesman for the school board, says the onus for the negotiating delays rests with the FEA's 106 demands. "We take time getting each of these," Bartman explains. "Many of these have long-range, philosophical ramifications more so than salary which is simply a matter of figures."

Teachers in other school districts have usually struck over the issue of wages. But Bartman does not anticipate any special difficulties despite the extra-large request.

INSTEAD THE two teams may bog down on issues like teacher evaluations, where any change in existing precedents for succeeding years.

Presently only the principal, vice-principal and certain designated supervisors like music directors can evaluate teachers. However, next year high schools will introduce administrative assistants, who will have third-scholar powers under the principal and vice

principal.

FEA would like to clearly establish whether administrative assistants will have assessment prerogatives. The school board team has proposed changing the language of the contract to read "any administrator can evaluate teachers."

"We feel the contract now is too restrictive," Bartman says. "We don't want to tie anyone's hands by specifying exactly who can and who can't."

"This is exactly what we don't want," Neuhauser answers. "That would worsen already bad situation."

"We definitely need a grievance procedure where teachers can appeal the evaluations they receive. Right now the principal and vice-principal's word is final."

Negotiators this year haven't debated the contract's students evaluating teachers, although that process is to begin at the start of the new school year.

Any agreement reached on evaluation this year would probably affect the trend of student evaluations 1,000, a more open appraisal system would likely lead to further innovations.

NEGOTIATORS have reached somewhat of an impasse on two other important points: (1) limits on class size (2) in-service training day.

The class size controversy has been at a standstill for weeks, the teachers arguing for limits and the school board team protesting that it would be an unbearable burden.

The in-service training conflict is a matter of "strict" versus "loose" construction of the contract. Teachers want special days set aside for in-service seminars and training.

The board team doesn't want to tie down to a minimum class days for in-service programs.

Parents and children drifted in until a total of 125, of which 50 were parents, were present. And how they enjoyed the picnic! And they were made possible by our Charlie Brown who helped put on the party. He also provided the punch bowl.

The picnic was a great success! 4 p.m. As well as pony rides, there were games such as sack races, three-legged, etc., under the chairmanship of Pat deCook.

Joanne Owen handled the food



ACHIEVEMENT — The Eagle Scout rank, highest in scouting, has been earned by these members of Farmington Scout Troop 110, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Church. From left, Jeff Reiter, Dick Letourneau, Bill Wamby and Tim Spronk. (Everett photo)

## wood creek farms

ANNE M. PHILLIPS MA 6-6335

The Junior Wood Creekers Family Fun Day for 1969 is now history. Saturday

seemed like a unusually fine day weatherwise — to have it or not to have it with the morning rain? But, when the ponies arrived at the McCrath's about 11:30 a.m., the skies were lifting. Jim and Lee Kay saw the ponies arrive at the McCrath's about 11:30 a.m., the skies were lifting. Jim and Lee Kay saw

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