

# The Farmington

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

### today's hot line

#### BULLETIN

Three Livonia youngsters suffered shock and second degree burns when their firecracker factory exploded in the basement of one of the boy's parents. Police described the homemade firecrackers as similar in destructive power to a grenade. Read details of what could have turned into a Fourth of July eve tragedy.

#### what's inside

### She Might Have

Summertime is fun in Farmington, especially if you're a kid. This week, photographer Fran Evert visited an FARC activity and made a special effort to get a picture of your son and daughter. Did she or didn't she?

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### Librarians March

The need for a new library in Farmington is leading to a librarians' march on Washington, D.C. A demonstration by librarians from throughout the state is being planned and will be staged on the stairs of the Rayburn Building. An appeal for marchers is made this week.

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### We'll Never Tell

It's Westward Ho! for a group of Farmington scouts who have packed their drums and fife for a special national appearance, another honor for the Farmington area. But you can't find out where they're going unless you turn to

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### Pelham Leaving

One of Observerland's best-known ministers, the Rev. Joseph Pelham of Trinity Episcopal, Farmington, is leaving in September to teach in theological school. The story is on the Church Page.

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### Soroptimism

Soroptimist clubs of Farmington and Livonia installed their officers and launched a new group in Redford Township recently. The story is on the Women's Page.

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### Religion Update

The Observer's new religion columnist, the Rev. Lester Kinsolving, appears for the first time today. Read his hard-hitting column on the Black Manifesto.

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# 1st Consolidation Vote's Not The Ultimate Decision--Gilbert

An affirmative vote on consolidation in November paves the way for the most flexibility in forming the future of the Farmington community. This is the position taken by Russ Gilbert, head of the newly formed coordinating committee of Citizens For A Better Farmington, working to insure a yes vote on the issue.

GILBERT MET last Wednesday with a group of interested residents of the municipalities that would be affected by consolidation.

He explained at this first meeting of the expanded community-based group that current discussions of the November election seemed to be conducted under a slight misunderstanding.

"There must be a realization that although people are talking in terms of yes on consolidation

an affirmative vote at this time would merely allow for the setting up of a charter commission," Gilbert said.

"The most important fact that must be stressed is that we would not be making an ultimate decision in November."

"A yes vote would allow for the formation of a charter commission that would then set out to give the community a picture of what a future consolidated government might look like," he said.

GILBERT EXPLAINED that this is the reason he feels approval of the question in November would allow for the most flexibility.

He added that even those opposed to consolidation, or those who fear it, should vote affirmatively so as to at least give the com-

munity a chance to see what proposals for improvement might be made by the charter commission.

Wednesday's meeting also dealt with formation of various committees to carry out the work of the campaign. A research and information committee will prepare fact sheets for the public.

There will also be a speakers' bureau whose members will speak or debate at any public meeting of interested residents. The organization coordinating committee will coordinate other local groups who offer assistance in the campaign.

Gilbert reported Citizens For A Better Farmington is seeking a place to serve as campaign headquarters, receiving mail and phone calls for the next three or four months.

He asked that anyone who would be willing to provide the space contact him.



ROY K. WILLIAMS JR.

## FHS Grad Killed In Vietnam

Warrant Officer Roy K. Williams, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy K. Williams of 2028 Hayden, Farmington, has been killed in combat action in Vietnam.

Williams died June 25 while piloting a helicopter on a combat operation. The aircraft crashed and burned for unknown reasons.

A 1967 graduate of Farmington High School, the pilot enlisted in September 1967, was married on Feb. 10, 1969 and went to Vietnam on March 11, 1969.

He is survived in addition to his parents by his wife, Colleen, brothers, James and Tom; sister, Kathy; and grandmothers, Mrs. Ida Williams of Indianapolis, Ind., and Mrs. Effie Everett, of Kalamazoo.

Funeral arrangements are being made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, pending arrival of the pilot's body from Vietnam. Information about the time of the service may be obtained by calling the funeral home at 474-3200.



HOUSE GUEST — Naturalist Hartley Thornton of Farmington holds a snake from the collection of small reptiles he keeps in the basement of his home. (Evert photo)

## Living With Hartley

# How A Home Became A Zoo

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

One's first impression of Hartley Thornton's home at 23155 Violet, Farmington, is that it is just like everybody else's with its early American furniture, touches of antiques and family pet Scottie dog.

But in the Thornton basement there is a collection of snakes.

This isn't surprising because Thornton is park naturalist at the Proulx Lake Recreation Area and has just been named Michigan's Conservation Educator of the Year.

He has collected snakes for over 25 years in addition to almost every kind of wildlife native to Michigan.

MRS. THORNTON accepts all this as her husband's way of life. Says Thornton: "My wife knew when she married me what

it would be like. I've had everything at home from a pet lion on down and every Michigan animal except moose and elk." When Thornton's son, Dale, nine years old, was an infant, he napped on the living room floor with a pet wild his father brought home from a \$45,000 collection of animals Thornton had obtained when he was working for Boys Republic through the 1950's to 1961.

THORNTON'S official title is "interpretive naturalist" for the Department of Natural Resources, Proulx Lake Recreation Area.

His interpretation of conservation and his relationship to each individual has provided opportunities for many learning experiences for thousands who visit the Proulx Lake area.

An important phase of his work is teaching the hundreds

of youngsters who participate each year in Proulx Lake's outdoor education program. In 1968 alone, 4,328 young persons took part in the week-long program. The naturalist spends one full day each week with kids explaining ecology, herpetology, ornithology, botany and wilderness survival.

IN ADDITION, the teacher-conservationist has worked with classes from the University of Detroit, from Marygrove College, and students from the University of Michigan.

Campers at Proulx Lake know Thornton well and last year he provided weekly programs for 15,576 of them in addition to conducting guided hikes and auto tours.

As well as his work with Detroit Public Schools and Dearborn Heights and Northville, Thornton has worked extensively

with Scouts.

HE ATTRIBUTES what he is today directly to the Boy Scouts. He was a scout child, not able to run and play, but after joining the Scouts at the age of 10 learned to live out-of-doors and during one of three years camped every weekend, winter and summer.

Because he left home in Illinois to come to Detroit at age 17, the naturalist didn't complete his education until he worked at the Protestant Children's Home while at Boys Republic for 18 hours of special education studies at Wayne State.

AT BOYS REPUBLIC he explains, "We used the outdoors as a classroom. I had to develop a program that would put the type of boy at Boys Republic on a basic level with the other

children in his home community."

"The only way to teach them was with animals. There was no desk in my classroom. Besides I haven't seen a person yet who didn't like an animal for which he could form an attachment."

THORNTON'S classroom experience and years of lecturing on wildlife and conservation makes him an articulate man on the subjects:

"My field has a new title, new wording—it is now called 'environmental education.' This means education in the total environment in which humans live. We have five resources—water, soil, plants, wildlife and minerals. You can't take away one without destroying all five."

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Oakland County continues to lead the Detroit Region in population growth and the Farmington area remains at the top of the list of communities experiencing rapid growth.

Population figures for Oakland County, as of July 1968, report a remarkable increase of 30 per cent which represents a numerical increase of 209,700 largest in the Detroit region.

A REPORT issued by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) shows Farmington Township ranks sixth in Oakland County in percentage of population growth since 1960.

Since 1960, Farmington Township's total population has increased by 16.9% or 66 per cent. Actually, Quakertown experienced a higher percentage of growth than the township but, of course, the numerical increase was smaller.

The top six municipalities in the county with the highest percentage of population increase are: Southfield, 113; Troy, 90; Bloomfield Township, 79; Quakertown, 68; Bloomfield Hills, 68; and Farmington Township, 66.

The City of Farmington registered a 44 per cent increase in population, a figure representing 3,000 new residents. The population of Woodcreek Farms increased 46 per cent, an increase of 315 people. Quakertown's numerical gain was 330 people.

BASED ON the SEMCOG report, the total population of The Greater Farmington Area

as of July 1, 1968 is 54,210. Populations for the individual municipalities are: city, 9,500; township, 42,500; Quakertown, 810; and Woodcreek Farms, 1,000.

Should consolidation pass and a new single city be formed, the new city would rank fifth in the county in population behind Roy at Oak (98,000), Pontiac (85,000) Southfield (87,000) and Waterford Township (57,500).

In addition to the population growth of the Farmington Area there has been a correlated increase in the number of occupied dwelling units.

Since 1960, the Farmington Area added 4,920 occupied dwelling units for a total of 13,660.

Broken down, the numerical increases in occupied dwelling units are: city, 800; township, 3,970; Quakertown, 70; and Woodcreek Farms, 80.



ANDY OROFINO

## Orofino Adds To Medal

Andy Orofino of Farmington has spent two years in Vietnam as Air Force helicopter gunner, earning Oak Leaf Clusters on his Air Medal.

Orofino won 19 Oak Leaf Clusters during an April-September 1968 tour. He was cited for "meritorious achievement" after heavy duty over North Vietnam.

At one point during his stretch, in July, Orofino helped himself to ground fire while helping evacuate wounded soldiers. For his bravery there he was awarded a 20th Oak Leaf Cluster.

Then during September to November, 1968, Orofino flew more than 25 missions against enemy territory, earning four more clusters for a total of 24.

He is scheduled to be discharged later this month.