

today's hot line

BULLETIN

The 30 John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance agents who serve Observersland communities are on strike after national negotiations broke down July 1 over salary and benefit disputes.

Picketing agents have been asking their customers to support them by withholding premium payments. They maintain that insurance contracts cannot be lapsed for non-payment of premiums during a strike.

A John Hancock spokesman in Boston told The Observer that the district office at 26000 Five Mile Road, Redford is open daily for receipt of premiums. He said that the company is required by contract to terminate policies of customers who miss premium payments.

what's inside

A Fight To Save

Everybody has their own idea on how to save the community. One idea is being explored by downtown merchants (see story on page one) and yet another is being tried by city homeowners. The homeowners tell their idea this week and tell about the association they have formed.

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End Tells Blessing

Oakland County will soon be blessed with a handful of area vocational centers, one of them right next door to Farmington. Plans for the center are discussed this week in the last of a series of articles examining vocational education.

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Walk On The Moon

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin will make their historic walk and then perform the first experiments on the surface of the moon late Sunday or early Monday. Two Plymouth men will tell CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite part of what is taking place.

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Musical Summer

Summer nights are the time to get outside and enjoy yourself. Two local musical groups play at night — one in Plymouth's Kellogg Park, another at Schoolcraft College. For pictures of Observersland people playing and listening see the amusement pages.

Pages 5-6B

All Stars Win

Ever want to play in Tiger Stadium? Area baseball players prove they can play well as they excel on the annual Free Press league all-star team. The sports page has the story of Livonia's entry, and how they won.

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"We had one phone call after another

... just an unbelievable amount of calls and the home was rented immediately," said Mrs. Don Colvin. To buy, sell or trade, use Observer Classified Want Ads.



SOUTHFIELD and Outer Drive area. \$8 a month furnished home, no pets. \$135. Security deposit \$100. Call 000-0000.

Classified WANT ADS

422-0900

The Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER



FRATERNAL — During a return visit he paid to Farmington, Gunter (center) made ice cream with his host Gary Lake. (Evert photo)

German Generation Gap Worse Than America's

By ELIZABETH WISSEM

A German youth, who recently made a return visit to Farmington, thinks the Generation Gap is worse in his homeland than it is in America.

Gunter Stamerjohanns, 19, who was here to see the Burton Lakes of 33808 Glenview, whom he spent a year with as a Youth for Understanding student two years ago, thinks there is more reason for the gap between generations in Germany.

"You must remember," he says, "that many of the 50-year-olds in Germany were Nazis. A lot of former Nazis are still alive and the whole of my age hate Nazis and all it stands for. We can't say to them, I don't know for certain that there are any Nazis left."

my acquaintances, but I guess if there were they wouldn't admit to ever being Nazis."

GUNTER also believes that he and other German youth are willing to philosophically accept the fact that Germany is a divided country.

"You have East Germany and you have West Germany and that's the way it's going to stay," he points out. "Most persons would settle for two countries. The division of Germany is a fact and you can't change it."

When he returned home two years ago after spending a year in Farmington, Gunter says he found himself more receptive to persons with ideas different than his.

"I found I was more open-minded to other's thoughts—I had more respect for other

ideas. I found I would listen to persons I didn't agree with," he notes.

THE BOY from Germany doesn't say so, but hints that Americans might profit by listening more carefully to world opinion.

He says, "Because of a Vietnam War, Americans have a lot of enemies—maybe not enemies, but certainly not friends. People all over the world are demonstrating against the war, even the Japanese who have been your very good friends."

He adds, "The world situation—Israel, Egypt, Biafra, etc.—is climbing to a peak and I don't know what this peak will be."

"But," he counters, "80 per cent of the Germans also go their own merry way. They say,

"everything is all right as long as I'm fine,"

GUNTER DOESN'T always think weighty thoughts like these. He loves coming to America and probably likes American Sunday habits better than German Sunday habits.

He grins, "In Germany on Sunday all you do is put on a tie and go to church or go for a walk. Here everything is more free—families and neighbors get together for a beer and a good time."

LIKE EVERY OTHER 19-year-old male, Gunter likes girls and won't make a comparison between American girls and German girls.

"It's just like trying to compare the sun and the moon," he indicates, "with the sun you have warmth and with the moon you have romance. You can't compare American girls and German girls—they just have different personalities."

(The coeds Gunter went to school with during 1967 at Farmington High will be wondering if they are the sun or the moon.)

Woodcreek Board Urges 'Yes' Vote

The Village of Woodcreek Farms this week became the first Farmington area government unit to officially urge a "yes" vote November 4 on the consolidation question.

The decision to endorse the "yes" vote was made at an informal meeting of the Woodcreek Farms village board presided over by President William Brown.

Brown told The Farmington-Enterprise & Observer that it was the board's feeling that residents should vote "yes" November 4 so a charter commission could be established.

"Based on the information available today," explained Brown, "we are in favor of the concept of consolidation and hope a favorable charter can be developed."

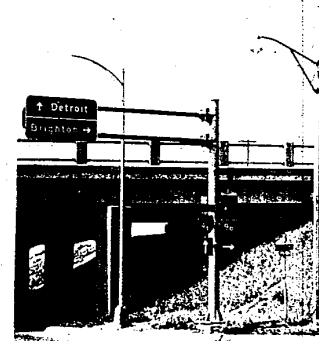
"The village board acknowledges there will be a change in governments in the metropolitan area and we feel consolidation seems to have the most advantages."

Village councilmen attending the meeting which resulted in the endorsement were: Dave Martin, William Smolek, Al Albertson and William Wortman.

Brown says the board plans to send a letter to Woodcreek Farms residents in early September explaining their views and reasons for urging a "yes" vote.

The Woodcreek Farms board also is planning to hold a public meeting in mid-September to discuss consolidation with village residents.

Besides being village president, Brown is also chairman of the Joint Study Committee of the four area units.



SIGNAL MIXUP — Somebody got their signals crossed and the result is two street lights at Freedom and Farmington Rds. The city requested a traffic light for that intersection. The traffic light was approved — on paper. That is. Next the pole was put up for the traffic light, thought the city. But, alas, somebody installed a bracket for a street light which was not asked for. The signal light is lost in the paper work and somebody will probably see red before we motorists do.

(Evert photo)

Renew Or Die Merchants Challenged

By EMORY DANIELS

A spark of enthusiasm has been lit which, if it ignites, could lead to a face-lifting for downtown Farmington.

The spark occurred Tuesday night at a Board of Commerce dinner in the Bostford Inn. Invited specifically to discuss the future of downtown Farmington, guests were from Birmingham.

Guest speakers were Birmingham officials who told "The Birmingham Story" and that steps that city has and is now taking to revitalize its central business district.

THE KEYNOTE was set by City Manager John Dinan who told the 60 in the audience that a renewed downtown would take a joint effort from all parts of the community and total involvement.

Speakers from Birmingham were: Noel Smith, executive director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce; Birmingham City Planner Bill Brownfield; and Job Kipparick of Michigan Bell.

Smith said Birmingham got its start in 1961 when merchants contributed \$18,000 for a central business district study. The study gathered together a group of residents formed a Citizens Action Committee to pressure city hall toward action.

The CAC formed a Civic Design Committee composed of 26 local architects who went to

work on the downtown plan. The architects developed a scale model of a new downtown area and presented it to the public.

Through communication, the interest of the residents was aroused and the city commission was pressured into hiring a professional design firm, Johnson, Johnson & Roy.

BROWNFIELD explained that a master plan is only two-dimensional because it is concerned with land and development on the land.

But the concept drawn by CAC, CDC and Johnson, Johnson & Roy added a third dimension — a downtown that is pleasing to the eye, accessible for pedestrians, and attractive for customers.

An urban design plan was drawn which called for a full circular ring road around the central business district. The ring road channels through traffic around downtown and diverts customers into the central business district.

By eliminating through traffic, the central core is rebuilt to accommodate pedestrians.

THE CONCEPT is to break up the former thoroughfare through Birmingham. Instead of a six or eight lane street, trees are planted and pedestrian walkways added with traffic lanes being reduced to one in each direction.

The lanes are intended only for cars driven by customers shopping in the business core. The core becomes a "living district" with boulevards, trees, fountains, display cases, mini-parks, and street furniture.

The plan calls for tearing down conventional street lights and installing pedestrian lights which would be located along buildings about 12-feet high. Up-lighting would be added for the trees.

Sidewalks would be widened, not only to provide more room for pedestrians, but to add a soft touch by planting flowers, locating urns and sculptures.

Brownfield says planners are also aiming at parking enclosures for lots. Instead of open areas, the lot would be enclosed by a wall of stone, brick or concrete. It would not be a continuous wall but have breaks for trees, flowers or bushes.

BEAUTY is also sought, said Brownfield, by seeking to improve the appearance of service stations. The aim is to eliminate unnecessary entrances and exits, devote more space to greenery, and eliminating large and spinning signs.

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Okay Rezoning For Topps Shopping Mall

The Farmington Township Board, at its last meeting, gave approval to a rezoning request which will pave the way for construction of a million-dollar Topps Department Store.

The store is to be built on Orchard Lake near 12 Mile Rd. in the township.

The action taken by the board Monday night rezoned 19 lots from residential to commercial to provide parking area for the department store.

THE MAIN area for the shopping mall had been used as a trailer park and was already zoned commercial. The rezoning 19 lots had to be to be rezoned commercial to square off the parcel and provide necessary parking space.

The rezoning request was recommended by the planning commission by a 7-2 vote. There was some controversy on the commission level since the Orchard Lake Study had recommended apartments for

that strip.

But the request was adopted unanimously by the township board without discussion.

The boundary for the center will be Whitewood, Greening, Ludden and Orchard Lakes. Topps has agreed to advance \$90,000 to the township for installation of a sewer arm along Orchard Lake from Bond north to Pershing St.

IN OTHER action, the board ratified this year's contract with Local 1456 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

A bonding resolution was adopted for a \$24,000 water project to cover an area along 9 Mile Rd. from Middle Bell to Whittington.

Permission was given to the Blue Star Mothers of America to sell Blue Daisies on Sept. 5, 6, to raise money for Veterans Hospital and assistance to needy veterans and their families.

requests, explained Supervisor Curtis Hall.

The board also approved transfer of a Class C liquor license with dance permit from the Roman House to Chik and Victor Lim who are going to open a Chinese restaurant at 30678 Grand River.

A NEW SDM license was approved for a party store at 32375 10 Mile, just east of Middle Bell.

Permission was given to the Blue Star Mothers of America to sell Blue Daisies on Sept. 5, 6, to raise money for Veterans Hospital and assistance to needy veterans and their families.

There was some discussion about the problem of littering and loitering at shopping centers, particularly at Westbrook Center. The attorney was instructed to investigate the feasibility of drawing an ordinance to cover such problems.