

It Can't Happen Here?-It Did!

IT'S A CLASSIC case of the few spoiling it for the many.

That's the summation of the troubles surrounding the FATAC summer dances and the police decision to cancel the remainder of the Wednesday night happenings.

Since the start of the summer the police have encountered problems in the city park on Wednesday nights.

The trouble was caused by a few. An estimated 500 to 600 kids attended the dances each week.

Most of the teenagers came because it was fun. It was a spot to meet your friends. It was also a night out during the summer vacation.

The dances were a good deal for the teenagers. The YMCA, which has organized and sponsored the dances for the past few years performed a service.

It's all stopped now.

It's unfortunate for the greatest number of teens, who are forced to combat the public image of rowdy kids. It's sad that the Y, which performs many services in the community, has to ride out the consequences from the actions of a few.

editorial

It happened, though. Sedate quiet Farmington is forced to curtail teenage activities.

The action wasn't taken in Livonia or another area. It didn't happen in any steaming huge metropolitan area. It happened in Farmington.

Remember this unpleasant episode the next time you start to say that "It can't happen in Farmington."

—Sue Shaughnessy

Questions Juvenile Court Procedure

Editor:

It was interesting to note in your July 28 edition the item buried on the fifth page concerning the 12 juveniles arrested for the series of 25 larcenies in this area. The small article mentioned the probability of returning the boys to their parents and allowing them to determine punishment, if any.

It would appear that after this enormous number of thefts, the parents have already proved their inability to cope with their sons' behavior. Did they not question where they were during even one, let alone 25, of these escapades?

It would probably be unjustified to hold them for trial if all the stolen goods were returned. However, some suitable and appropriate punishment could conceivably be handed down by the authorities. If these boys could spend one or two weeks doing some worthwhile work for the orphan home or penal institution in the nearby community perhaps they and their parents and the community would profit from the experience.

If this attitude of withholding their names and codding them until they are older continues, it would seem that the crime rate five or 10 years from now will be even greater than it is today.

Not long ago, I noted with pride the job our police are prepared to do in the event of civil disorder. Does this action with these local boys not rate the same attention? Speaking at a meeting of citizens, an officer stated that 65 percent of all crimes in this area are committed by boys. Perhaps the reason for this is shown by their action in this case. If I were one of these people robbed of something, I would feel a little anxious after Dad and Mom make their decision on how much T.V. Junior will miss for a week or so, if they punish him at all.

As a mother of a couple of juveniles myself, I can assure you I probably would hope the authorities would step in and straighten out my children, if I had fallen so miserably.

By the example set here and by so many of our courts lately, it seems that crime can be fun, especially when one wants a little excitement — until someone gets hurt that is —. But let's not think about that.

FARMINGTON RESIDENT

P.S. Please be kind enough to withhold my name, as I do not wish to be the next victim of these boys.

(EDITOR NOTE: In regard to the letter, and to juvenile crime cases in general, it should be remembered that the only court authorized to deal with charges brought against persons under 17 years of age is the Juvenile Court operated within the Oakland County probate structure. Cases involving persons 16 and under are not heard by the Farmington Municipal Court, or by either of the justice courts in Farmington Township.)

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Wanna Go Home?

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN
Following the Founders Festival pigeon race and after learning that the birds really did fly 40 miles back to their home roosts, we talked to a couple of animal authorities about the homing instinct in animals.

Keith Craig, general zoological curator at the Detroit Zoo, says the reasons behind the homing mechanism have never really been determined.

ALTHOUGH not definitely proven, Craig says that animals are thought to orient themselves by the sun or by some force of the earth's magnetic poles. The magnetic pole theory is proven by the fact the birds in flight can be misdirected when they fly near radio towers.

He says there is also an instinctive directional orientation in most humans, but in primitive man it was much more developed.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, we've heard of a pair of Farmington felines who had the homing instinct to a remarkable degree.

"Squeaky," a yellow tiger cat owned by the Judson Goltras, of Novi, formerly of Bel Aire Subdivision, put his love of home to work four years ago.

Leaving Farmington after a summer vacation, the Goltras couldn't find their cat and left for home much worried.

They needn't have bothered fussing because come November Squeaky turned up near Ten Mile School.

Mrs. Goltra went out and collected the family friend, who she says gave out "a wild mew" when he spotted her.

Once safe at home after covering 350 miles in two months, Squeaky ate a full meal and sacked out on the couch for hours.

"BLACK BART," a cat belonging to the John E. Bembs, 36463 Paddock, Farmington, is another cat who didn't want to change his address.

When the Bembs moved to Old Homestead from Kendallwood, Bart had his own ideas.

He ran back to the Kendallwood home at least eight times, finally forcing the family to give up and move him back permanently to a Kendallwood friend's home.

The Bembs' son, Walter, notes that the last he heard, Bart was still in residence in Kendallwood.

THESE ARE JUST instances of what animals will do to return to a familiar lair. Probably other Farmingtonites have had similar experiences, and at least one movie, "Lassie Come Home," has been filmed on this trait.

In these days of mismarked streets and confusing expressway direction signs, it seems a pity that humans have become so civilized they don't know the way home without written directions.



Floating 4 Adds \$800,000

FARMINGTON ROAD paving work is running ahead of schedule by 1 to 3 weeks and may be opened for traffic by mid-September. The major portion of the paving was completed this past week and workers now are going back for cleanup, grading and to pour concrete connecting the side streets with the new four-lane thoroughfare. Originally, the road's opening had been estimated for the first part of October, but as the last strip of paving is laid (shown above) area officials become more optimistic over an early opening.

IN THE NEAR future, it is very probable the "floating four" will go back into debt retirement. Within the next four years, the district expects to sell bonds totaling \$12 million for needed construction.

Fill Post Monday

The Farmington board of education vacancy left by Trustee George Otis' resignation is expected to be filled at Monday night's regular meeting.

The board has until Sept. 1 to fill the vacancy but the appointment is expected to be made Monday night, according to Richard H. Peters, acting board president.

Peters told The Enterprise and Observer that several persons have been talked about for the position and board members are presently reviewing background information on each nominee.

By Monday the list should be narrowed down enough to allow the board to pick a trustee who would serve until the next school year in June, 1969, Peters said.

If the vacancy is not filled Monday night, the board would have to hold a special meeting within 30 days to name Otis' successor.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. on Aug. 26, at the administrative center located on Shilawesee Rd., west of Powers Rd.

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