

# Farmington Enterprise & Observer

Vol. 82, No. 26      YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER      Sunday, December 28, 1969      18 pages, 3 sections      15c a Copy      Philip H. Power, Publisher

## today's hot line

### BULLETIN

Capt. John Marshall, of Livonia, escaped with wounds in the thigh but his three companions in a jeep were killed in an ambush by N. Vietnamese near Saigon.

That information was broadcast over television and radio stations Friday morning and the Observer editorial staff finally located Mrs. Marshall at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gray, 1635 Park, Livonia, to confirm the reports.

Mrs. Linda Gray Marshall, accompanied by her three children, David, 7; Robbie, 4; and Kelly, 10 months, arrived for the holidays a week ago. She was notified of the incident by U.S. Army officials who indicated Capt. Marshall had been moved to a Japanese hospital for additional treatment.

The Army reports show Capt. Marshall played dead after the ambush and that the Vietcong took his wallet and watch. They then destroyed the jeep by fire.

Both of the Marshalls are graduates of Bentley High. His mother, Mrs. William McKee resides in Livonia and his father is believed to be a resident of Garden City but couldn't be reached at the address given to Observer reporters.



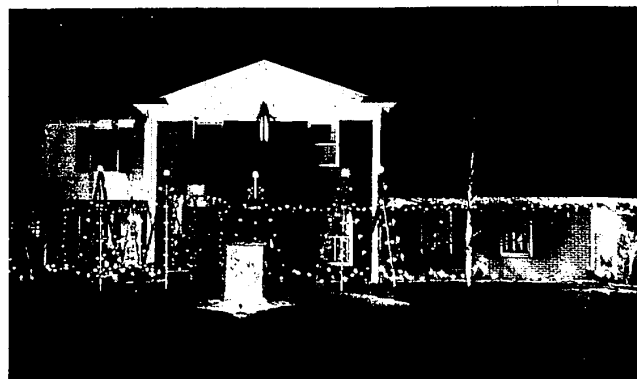
HOLIDAY DRESS -- Here's how Mr. and Mrs. Norm Prochaska of 34296 Conroy Court, Farmington, dressed their home for the Christmas season. The family's efforts won first prize for home decoration from the City of Farmington Beautification Committee. (Photo by Ralph Evert)



YULE NIGHT -- Lawrence Mayer Florist's window makes such a gay holiday scene on Grand River St. Farmington that the owner of the shop won first prize for business Christmas decoration from the City of Farmington Beautification Committee. (Photo by Ralph Evert)



FESTIVE -- The magic of Christmas is captured by the Darrell Colley family in their home at 26233 Dundalk, Farmington. The family's home was judged best decorated in KimBerly Subdivision. (Photo by Ralph Evert)



CHRISTMAS SPARKLE -- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J.P. Berney of 32300 Old Forge, Farmington, did such a beautiful job decorating their home for the holidays that they won first prize in Kendallwood Subdivision's contest for the best decorated abode. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

## County Set To Act On Annexation

The annexation petition on file with Oakland County will be referred to the Board of Supervisors on Jan. 8, but a decision is not expected to be made until Jan. 22 at the earliest.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer learned this week that the county election clerk was formally notified Dec. 22 by the State Boundary Commission of its rejection of the petition seeking an election to incorporate Farmington Township, including both villages, into a home rule city.

THAT REJECTION makes it possible for Oakland County to act on the petition filed by Richard Tupper seeking an election to annex the southern half of the township to the City of Farmington.

On Jan. 8, the Board of Supervisors will receive the annexation petitions and Chairman Charles Edwards will turn the question over to the board's Local Affairs Committee.

The Local Affairs Committee will examine the petitions to determine if they are in order and that sufficient number of signatures are included.

The committee can make only an administrative decision on the validity of the petitions and is not allowed to rule on whether the question is proper or has merit.

If the petitions are in order, the only action the Local Affairs Committee will take is to recommend a date for an election.

IF AN ELECTION is set, only city voters and voters in the area to be annexed will cast ballots.

Chairman of the Local Affairs Committee is Richard Wilcox. Members are: Fred Houghten, Paul Kasper, Philip Mastin Jr., Niles Olson, Albert Szabo and James Brennan, vice-chairman.

The earliest date the committee can report its recommendations to the full board is Jan. 22, the day after the State Boundary Commission is scheduled to make a decision on the substitute petition.

Robert McConnell, who filed the November incorporation petition, has filed a substitute asking the Boundary Commission to change the wording of his original petition and set a consolidation election.

If accepted, the substitute petition would carry a retroactive date of Oct. 13 and would have to be acted upon before annexation proceedings could begin. Thus, the supervisors when they meet Jan. 22 will know the Boundary Commission's action on the substitute request.

If the substitute is rejected, the supervisors then will be free to act on the recommendation of the Local Affairs Committee.

If the substitute is accepted, the annexation petitions will return to limbo -- either by staying in committee or by tabling action by the full board.

## Cityhood Rejection Unfair-Nolan

Township Trustee Thomas Nolan leveled a blast this week at the State Boundary Commission for its rejection of the petition to incorporate Farmington Township, Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms into a home rule city.

The commission rejected the request for an incorporation election on the grounds that two villages can be joined with a township only through consolidation.

NOLAN DESCRIBED the action as "deplorable" and one which "should not be taken lightly by our residents." While criticizing the commission's decision, Nolan also encouraged residents to write letters supporting a vote on cityhood.

"The situation is grave and one that needs action," warned Nolan.

"We as elected officials have worked hard to create a planned community with a tax base that is to the benefit of all our residents."

"We are in danger of losing a large part of this tax base and I for one call out to our residents for help. This is not a time for the average citizen to sit back. It is a time to get up and fight for what is yours."

TOWNSHIP LEADERS for many years have pointed out the dangers of retaining a township with unprotected boundaries, said Nolan.

"Some have scoffed at our fears and said they were unwarranted. Today there is no question of the intent of the city. They plan to grab a large piece of our valuable tax base."

"The residents of Farmington Township, Wood Creek and Quakertown had enough foresight to pledge millage so that we could develop our industrial park. This turned out to be a very wise

Continued on Page 2A

## what's inside

### Exclusive Report

A mysterious traveling reporter issues an exclusive report on the happenings Christmas Day in Farmington. An editorial discusses the need for greater emphasis on minority understanding. And an expert appraiser agrees with the city's position on the need for reforming assessing practices...all these topics are covered on today's local editorial page.

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### Challenge

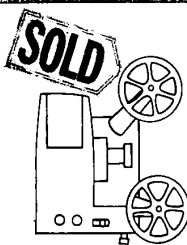
The dissatisfaction with Albert Zak's leadership of the Wayne County board hasn't ended, and an Observerland member, Carl Pursell, is considering challenging the Hamtramck politician for the chairmanship in January. What's Pursell's strategy?

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## upcoming

Next Thursday 1969 will come to an end and the next decade will begin. Before turning our attention to the '70s, the Farmington Enterprise & Observer reporting staff takes a look at the '60s and what the past decade has meant to our readers. An extensive report on the '60s in Farmington will be given Wednesday.



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