

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

Exposures

Revealed

The den was assigned as a roving reporter Christmas eve to report on the gifts which were under the trees of Farmington area civic and community leaders.

Not much validity should be given this report, however, since it was written after the den consumed three gallons of eggnog, six trays of cookies, two pounds of mince meat and seven pounds of frozen turkey.

FIRST REPORT is that Bob McConnell and Dick Tupper each received a pair of Buster Brown tennis shoes, a stop watch and maps. "Only the maps were different."

Noel Kurth opened a package containing a doll house with witches and goblins inside, intended to raise money for his favorite cause.

Bill Bowman is having lots of fun with an electric train which he hopes to install in 1980 to link the Industrial Park with the Erie Canal. Once accomplished, this will scrap the master plan which calls for a network of canals throughout the area.

The city's seal and motto judging committee received a nomination. The motto is "The Town That Forgot Time."

Sketched on the seal is a grandfather's clock without a pendulum, tagged for repair in 10 years — or maybe 20 if passage of daylight saving time can be delayed.

Ted DeBaene received a book of inspirational readings. In Chapter 2 is a quote intended to be read every 1,000 years in the month of April. "There is a tide in affairs of men which taken at the flood

Curtis Hall's gift is a computer which adds up the miles of unpaved roads in the township, multiplies the rats by the number of cars which no longer travel on those roads, divides the sum by the number of people who haven't signed petitions, subtracts the money left in the local road funds, and kicks out a bill for \$3 million and a bottle of aspirin.

JOHN DINAN'S array of

Reader Writes

Why Letter Was Written

EDITOR

It becomes increasingly more tiresome to have Supervisor Curtis Hall ascribe lack of understanding to the citizens who write letters to the township. Those who recently complained about the efficiency of the Building Department were also given the questionable treat of the Hallian circumlocution.

We fully understood the position of Messrs. Tom Nolan and Hall in regard to the appointment of a Senior Citizens Housing Committee, to wit, the committee will consist only of members of the Township Board for a "temporary period."

It was not clear what the position of others on the board might be. Did "temporary" mean two weeks, six weeks or until a conspicuous time in October when relinquishing the reins could be traded for maximum effectiveness at the ballot box? We writers of the letter knew full well the positions of those who made their positions known; that was our reason for writing the letter.

Application for study funds might originally have been delayed one or two weeks

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Agrees With City

Expert Appraiser Sees Reform

While pushing for reform in assessment practices, the City of Farmington found an ally in William B. Grabendike, a Birmingham appraiser.

Grabendike, a real estate broker since 1920, was once a member of the Oakland County Equalization Board and is past president of the Detroit chapter of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers Association.

GRABENDIKE HELPED establish the first tax equalization department for Oakland County in 1953 and served as director for over 10 years.

He congratulated the city for its criticism of what he describes as the "current legalized holdup and confiscation of real and personal property in the state of Michigan that is now being perpetuated under the use of the newly adopted Michigan State Constitution."

In a rather strong statement, Grabendike declared:

"The confused and uninformed taxpayers in the State of Michigan today know the true facts of how their own tax money is spent and further how they are being taken for a trip to the cleaners, there would be an immediate taxpayers revolt and a long overdue thorough investigation of the misuse of the taxpayers' hard-earned money."

Grabendike made reference to the 1959 Oakland County Equalization Report. According to that report, he says, one township in the county is assessing at 19% of its true cash value and another at 121% of the usual selling price.

"What is the State Tax Commission doing about these inequities," he asks. "Especially if the same condition now exists that was true when I was employed with the county, when three of the Tax Commission field men lived and worked in one of the above

(Following is the third in a series of articles on the need to reform property tax assessing practices. In today's article, an expert appraiser discusses what is wrong with the present system and why it is unfair.)

said townships."

HE OBSERVED that students of finance and most administrative officials condemn the property tax because its defects are so serious.

Grabendike says the property tax is wrong in theory, unjust in practice, results in unequal valuations and causes public demoralization.

While serving on the State Board of Tax Equalization, Grabendike recommended elimination of property tax for school operation with replacement by an income tax. The property tax, he said, should be used only for townships, cities and counties.

"The local communities then, if they felt the assessments were not proper and uniform, could easily remove the inefficient administrators in their tax department and

will examine other proposals now being made to reform assessment practices.

Grabendike concluded by complimenting the city council for "having the guts to stand up publicly and express your honest opinions and expose these unvoted tax increases for what they are and, in doing so, let the public know there are still some capable, honest, intelligent people who are looking after the interests of the public and taxpayers."

The next article in this series, appearing next Sunday,

Chains In Trunk

The Michigan State Safety Commission presents this tip for safer winter driving from the National Safety Council:

"Tests show that reinforced tire chains provide four to seven times as much pulling ability on snow and ice as regular tires without chains." Always carry chains in the trunk of your car to assure your ability to get through regardless of the weather.

Need Emphasis

On Minorities

Clouds of controversy over sex education are gathering over the Farmington School district and are already obscuring a much more important topic.

Hints of trouble to come — comments at meetings, letters to the newspaper, etc. — have been observed recently as the Family Life Education Committee (FLE) of the board of education begins making noticeable progress.

THE FLE IS an advisory group appointed by the school board to study the problems of sex education.

Editorial

tion, drug education and minority group understanding. To limit the furor over sex education seems to have been the principal reason for the existence of the FLE.

Minority understanding probably will take third place in the interest of the district's residents. But sex and drug education, certainly in the best interests of individual students, are not as important as minority group understanding.

Minority group understanding is of vital importance to the society as a whole. Riots and disorders among blacks and the young are the symptoms. The disease is the gap between what we say and what we do.

A white suburban community probably will have only an academic interest in minority understanding. Almost any program on the blacks and poor could be set up as a token.

There could be little brown boys in the textbooks along with the little white boys. But there probably won't be any explanation why there are very few blacks in Farmington while hundreds of thousands of them live only a few miles away.

THERE ARE SOME situations in which the society's betterment must override the concerns of individuals and communities. This is one.

The school board and the community should give top priority to implementing an effective human relations program.

Wylie Gerdes

Assign Gibbons

FARMINGTON Army PFC Gary M. Gibbons, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gibbons of 32715 Briarcrest, Farmington, has been

assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade in Vietnam, as a records clerk.

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Reader Has

The Solution

EDITOR

For the past 20 years that I have lived in Farmington Township there has been never-ending talk about incorporation and annexation. May I offer a simple solution.

The people of Farmington Township, Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown should ask the City of Farmington to take them over completely. If this was accomplished, the community would be running smoothly within one year. The voters from the new city could elect the best for city government offices. This merging would bring a reduction of taxes and better service to all through efficiency.

It is time that the politicians put aside their personal interests for the betterment of the people.

HUGH SHELLEY

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