

Farmington's Civic Watchdogs

Jaycees: Outstanding Club Of The Decade

While compiling our review of the '60s in Farmington, the name of one organization kept popping up—the Farmington Area Jaycees.

Their name was left out of the review, only their actions recorded, because we want to offer special recognition today. We would like to nominate the Farmington Jaycees as the Most Outstanding Organization of the Decade.

It would not be enough to honor the Jaycees as civic group of the year because their efforts stretch over the past 10 years.

And maybe the best club in 1969 was not Jay-

cees. It probably was the Farmington Exchange Club for undertaking sponsorship of the concert band.

But the Jaycees were also very busy this year:

EDITORIAL

sponsoring the Junior Miss Pageant, promoting consolidation, holding the Community Fun Fair, drawing crowds to their haunted house, sponsoring the bicycle contest, and endless projects to aid handicapped

children.

THE JAYCEES MADE a major contribution to the community by organizing and achieving a successful millage vote for swimming pools and auditoriums. The school board promised to put the proposals on the ballot if the Jaycees did the work.

And the Jaycees worked. They took a survey showing most residents in the community wanted pools and auditoriums. They compiled printed material to explain cost and benefits and then went door-to-door selling the project. Voters

approved the special millage at a time when millage proposals in other districts were being defeated.

The community now has two pools and two auditoriums and will have a third pool and auditorium when Harrison High opens. For this accomplishment, credit is due the Jaycees.

The Jaycees were also early organizers of a drive to employ Michigan State University to conduct a professional study on boundary alternatives for Farmington. They kicked in the money needed to finance the study after the city paid its share. The Jaycees were also active in the campaign and cannot be held the least accountable for consolidation's defeat.

DURING THE DECADE, the Jaycees also elected one of its members as president of the Michigan Jaycees. And Pat Nowak has been a good ambassador for Farmington as he travels across the state.

In addition, Jaycee projects in the '60s were: providing tennis courts and a shelter for the ice rink at city park, and surfacing the city park parking lot. There were many other projects too numerous to mention but enough has been said to substantiate the nomination.

Runnerup is the Farmington Board of Commerce which organized and promoted the Founders Festival in the '60s and is now a moving force behind downtown redevelopment.

The Board of Commerce was born in this decade and has taken its place quickly as a community leader. The Jaycees will be hard-pressed to retain their crown in the '70s.

EMORY DANIELS

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

Freudian Slip?

Today's den will be short due to a blown fuse last week.

Last week's column was devoted to an unwrapping of Christmas gifts by Farmington residents. Unfortunately, a fuse blew in the print shop and the last paragraph was assembled in total darkness.

The result was a few lines left out and Aldo Vagnozzi ended up unwrapping John Richardson's gift, which was all right for Aldo but left John short a gift.

George Kuhn had just unwrapped his pin-the-tail on the donkey set when the fuse blew. Aldo, a prominent Democrat, was supposed to receive an Opel. That won't make much sense except for those television viewers who are aware of the commercial which pits the mini-brute against an elephant.

Darkness hid the unveiling which saw John Richardson, our local vet, receiving a life-membership in the Society Against Indecency to Naked Animals.

That's really not worth clarifying except it ought to be explained that Aldo, contrary to earlier reports, is quite kind to naked animals.

Reader Writes

Thanks Helpers

Christmas 1969 was much merrier for 135 less fortunate Farmington families thanks to the individuals and groups who dressed Goodfellow dolls and made or donated gifts.

7 Graduate At Western

FARMINGTON Seven Farmington residents have received degrees in graduation ceremonies at Western Michigan University.

They include Mary Ann Audette of 25309 Ridgewood, B.S., secondary provisional certificate; Patrick Curtin of 24771 Westmoreland, bachelor of business administration; Glenn Grace of 32319 Valleyview Circle, B.S.; Sandra Haviland of 28424 Peppermill, B.S., secondary provisional certificate.

Others are Deborah Kavakian of 29075 Summerwood B.A., elementary provisional certificate; Thomas Kaskin of 31848 Polkstone, B.A.; Susan Reid of 30114 Ardmore, B.A., elementary provisional certificate.

Member Of Court

Gloria Sinsara of 20221 Ridgewood, Farmington, was a member of the queen's court at Northern Michigan University's recent homecoming.

Ceiling Sparkle

A small room comes alive with a sparkling ceiling treatment. Try this three-dimensional effect: install fir 2x2s across the ceiling surface, spacing them one inch apart. Paint or stain the 2x2s before installing and cover screw holes with small brass studs.

Dresses

The Goodfellow dress drive resulted in nearly 150 dresses. These dresses were previewed by several women and children in our community who attended the dress preview on Dec. 11 which was sponsored by the Longacre P.T.A. Those who missed the preview had an opportunity to view some of the dresses at the National Bank of Detroit.

The 120 dolls that were specially dressed prettier than ever this year, attracted many children and adults to the Farmington District Library where they were on display before being delivered to fulfill those little girls' dreams of a "new doll" for Christmas.

My special thanks to the Farmington Enterprise and Observer staff for their excellent cooperation to help seek doll dressers and dress makers, to Pixieland for providing dress hangers, to the Farmington Cleaners for placing each dress in a plastic bag before going into the Goodfellow baskets, and also to Chesley Industries for providing the necessary display racks.

To all who participated in the 1969 Goodfellow spirit, may the New Year be richly blessed for you realizing that your kind gesture helped others less fortunate in our community.

MRS. JOHN RICHARDSON, Chairman
Goodfellow Dress Drive
Goodfellow Dolls

FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE AND OBSERVER, published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 22623 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan, 48304. Every Sunday, Philip H. Power, Publisher. Entered as Second Class Mail at the U.S. Post Office, Farmington, Michigan. Subscription rates: Deliverable by express—\$50 monthly; Newsstand—\$10 per copy. Address all mail subscription change of address forms 3579 to Box 424, Farmington, Michigan, 48304.

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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Published every Wednesday and Sunday
Newsstand per copy, the
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22623 Farmington Road
Farmington, Mich.
Phone 474-6225

Tax Reform

An Array Of Solutions

(Following is the final in a series of articles examining the need for reforming property tax assessing practices. Today's article summarizes a number of suggestions made by state officials, agencies and tax experts.)

of local districts by the State Tax Commission, and creation of a separate review tribunal to assume a case-by-case review function now allotted to the State Tax Commission.

THE PROBLEM was also recognized by the Governor's Commission on Educational Reform which stated:

"Property assessment practices in Michigan do not produce a uniform relationship between the assessed valuation or state equalized valuation (SEV) and the true market value of property. The SEV on property in Michigan ranges from less than 10% to more than 50% of market value."

Robert Purnell, chairman of the tax assessment division of the State Treasury Department, estimates there is between \$140-\$200 million of additional income which could be collected if fair, equitable and uniform assessment practices were followed state-wide.

Gov. Milliken also says the key to reform is an adequate and equitable revenue base. "Fairness in property taxes must also be insured by greater uniformity of assessment practices state-wide."

Daniel Fufeld, a U-M economics professor, says the problem is especially acute in the suburbs where rising land costs are not reflected in proper increases in local tax receipts. Fufeld says the result is tax favoritism for speculators and an undue burden to owners of developed property.

THE MICHIGAN Citizens Research Council also calls for county-wide assessing plus state assessing of industrial and utility property.

When James Clarkston was mayor, the City of Southfield assessed its property on a land-value system. Property was assessed for the value of the land, not the value of buildings.

Under Clarkston's plan,

owners were encouraged to improve their property, and speculators were encouraged to sell their holdings for development. The forced development of previously vacant property helped raise the city's revenues.

Throughout all this discussion can be heard one voice—there never can be tax reform without changes leading to uniform and equitable state-wide assessing practices.

The result was that home-

Family Room Needs Thought

A family room is by nature multipurpose. It's the place for informal living—on every age level. That may include games, reading, playing music, watching TV, you name it.

That doesn't mean the average family needs something like Madison Square Garden to accommodate the pastimes of its members. Thoughtful arrangement can provide convenience and comfort for a wide range of activities.

For instance, when the man of the house comes home, he'll want to be with the family. But he'd probably rather relax and read the evening paper than join the gang watching television. Or the cook may find time for a coffee break while waiting for the oven timer.

WHAT'S NEEDED is a corner that invites adult relaxation. First essentials are comfortable seating, good lighting, books and magazines, preferably tucked beside a fireplace. Furnishings should be serviceable yet attractive.

A cushy sofa and lounge chair and a gay area rug transform an ordinary corner into a special den. A library wall paneled in resawn cedar is cheerful and informal. It can support a wall-hung cabinet and ample bookshelves.

A CABINET of matching cedar boards is both useful and

good-looking, providing storage for a jumbled mending basket, papers or any odds-and-ends you want at hand. A plastic laminate top insures easy upkeep.

Shelving supported by metal standards and brackets permits a free arrangement for books of various sizes. A slanted magazine rack will keep current issues neat and readily accessible.

Minimal housekeeping is another bonus. Clear-finished cedar requires only dusting and an annual waxing, if desired. For the rest, a once-over with the vacuum and everything's in shape.

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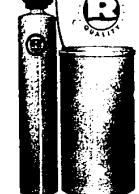
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