

# the Farmington enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 84 60 pages, 5 sections

## what's inside

### Visit Old Village

A walking tour of the Old Village in Farmington has been planned for the Farmington Founders Festival. A map of historical sites and pictures of two homes which will be open for visitors is provided our readers so they can plan ahead which sites to visit.

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### Slave Refuge Here

Today's edition includes another special section filled with news about the Farmington Founders Festival which begins tomorrow (Thursday) and ends this weekend. Today's section includes a special report on underground railroad activities in the Farmington Area and a history of the City of Farmington written by Paul Schriber and John Dinan.

Section E

### Skirt The Issue

Would you like to tell the fashion "experts" a thing or two about skirt lengths? There's a way you can.

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### Liberate Men Too

One local leader of women's liberation thinks men need some liberating too. She's Margaret Miller's Woman On the Go.

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### Stenger Leaves S'craft

Robert Stenger, who left Plymouth High School to join the Schoolcraft College faculty and advanced to Academic Dean, has resigned to accept the presidency of Kirtland Community College near Roscommon.

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### Mediation Is Next Step

Unable to agree in their negotiations, the Schoolcraft College administration and Faculty Forum teams have agreed to turn the matter of salary increase over to mediation.

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### Young man most likely to succeed.



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# Airborne Act Opens Festival

By WYLIE GERDES

Farmington's famous sporting event, the sixth International Pigeon Derby, was a soaring success last Thursday.

Part of the Founders Festival celebration, the annual celebrity affair drew the largest crowd in its history for the starting flutters from Farmington's High's football field.

Although missing some celebrities present at previous races, the event featured Art Cervi, Larry Thompson and Jerry Hodak were on hand to handle their birds. The promoters assign a bird to invited broadcasters, then award trophies to first and second winners in four classes, plus a special "Tallender" trophy for the last finisher in each class.

The bright and balmy day for the race was the work of Hodak, WJBK-TV's young weatherman. His bird was named "Lightning," and the pigeon's name was the only indication of foul weather apparent during the afternoon.

Hodak, however, handicapped his bird by giving the other contestants a head start. After the other 80-odd pigeons were away and clearly, the weatherman was still tugging at the box which held his racer.

THE BIRD lived up to his name, though, by thrashing the remainder of the field in the competition among weathermen. The TV 2 weatherman's bird flopped into the Belleville home of Dr. John Strupa, the pigeon's owner, ahead of "Amorous Annette," Sony Eliot's ruffled racer. Eliot's pigeon, luckily named for his wife, almost was disqualified from the race.

Cervi, CKLW-TV's Bozo when covered with grease paint, approached Farmington City Councilman Dr. John Richardson with the charge that Eliot's bird had been doped. Cervi wanted a blood test but the Farmington veterinarian declined because of lack of experience with Derby contestants.

The "tallender" of the weathermen's class belonged to Jim Smith of WXYZ-TV. Smith deserved the trophy after trying to fix the race by naming his pigeon "Foul (or Fowl) Weather."

SPORTSCASTERS who were taking book on the race, laid odds that any bird titled "Big Al's Victory Bird" would be too heavy to fly. "Big Al," however,



UP, UP AND AWAY -- The starting area was flooded with feathered fowl at the International Pigeon Derby held Thursday as part of the Founders Festival celebration. Broadcast celebrities, including Bozo and Mr. Woodini in their civilian disguises, loosed the fowl flock.

into the air from Farmington High's football field. Jerry Hodak, WJBK-TV's weather man, had trouble with the starting gate for his gallant bird, "Lightning," which was the last pigeon to head for home. (Ever photo)

should have made WWJ-TV's Al Ackerman happy enough to ding - a - ling all over the air with a victory in the sports class.

Second place in the day's feature went to Jerry Chippetta of WXYZ-TV. Chippetta placed his fortunes on a bird named "Sportsman's Belle." The "Tallender" trophy in the sports competition went to "Old Announcer," a balding bird out of WJBK-TV and Lions' telecasts: Van Patrick, Dearborn radio station owner and national known announcer, picked an appropriate name for his entry.

News-casters, a couple of whom got the pleasure of announcing their birds' finishes of

the air, had far and away the most distinctive fowls among the flock. All the birds assigned to newscasters circled to the left, thus proving recent charges of bias against TV news.

NEWS WINNERS were Ken Rutledge of WCAR with "Barry the Grappler," Barney Morris of WXYZ-TV second with "Seventh Heaven," and Jac LeGoff with "Pee Jay." WJBK-TV's entry.

Despite his preeminence in wise cracking before the flock flew, CKLW-TV's Bozo was shut out in the final standings. Cervi, whose drooping eyelids and mood clothes make him resemble Joe Namath, claimed he found two bird footprints in a

freshly-poured patch of cement before the race.

The winner, however, was Gary Johnson of WJLD in Garden City with an entry named "Mr. Second" was "Save the Mini," a bird with obviously very sharp eyesight entered by Jimmy Launce of WJR.

The "Tallender" was "Mr. Magic," belonging to Larry Thompson of CKLW-TV. Thompson plays Mr. Woodini for thousands of Detroit area youngsters.

Cervi, Thompson and the others signed autographs for the hundreds of children who appeared to witness the event and mixed with local officials. Politicians showed the

poultry paraders weren't entered in the really important races. Township Supervisor Curt Hall, Township Clerk Floyd Cairns and Township Trustee Tom Nolan each released a pigeon. Each of the men is seeking a township office in the Aug. 4 primary.

Also on hand to turned loose a pigeon were City Councilman Richardson, Dr. Roderick Smith, superintendent of schools, and last year's Festival Queen Kathy Stock. Donna Bush, last year's runner-up in the queen contest, also raced a pigeon.

The Derby was sponsored by Omar Sanderson Realty, Danish Inn and Thompson-Brown.

## Milliken Will Lead Parade

Governor William Milliken will make his second annual visit to Farmington Saturday for the Founders Festival Parade.

Milliken has been invited to serve as parade marshal for the Festival parade which starts at 10 a.m. July 25.

It will be the first of three stops Saturday for the governor who will make a quick campaign tour after his return this afternoon (Wednesday) from Ohio where he addressed an environmental quality panel at the Midwestern Governor's Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Friday, Milliken will be in Muskegon for a plant tour and lunch with civic leaders. After the parade Saturday morning, Milliken will take a quick walk through the downtown area to greet residents.

A quick lunch (a basket of fried chicken) is being prepared to serve Milliken during his whistle-stop in Farmington. From Farmington, Milliken's campaign train will swing to Saugatuck where the governor will appear at the Venetian Festival.

Milliken's Saturday schedule will end in Houghton lake where he will attend a Republican fund-raising dinner.

Milliken also rode in last year's Festival parade but the honor of parade marshal was given to Sid Abel, general manager of the Detroit Red Wings and Farmington resident.



BEAUTIES AND THE BEAST -- Miss Kathy Stock, last year's Founders Festival Queen, and Miss Donna Bush, last year's runner-up in the contest, quitted one of the high-strung races at Thursday's International Pigeon Derby. (Ever photo)

## Mrs. Hall Dies At 57

Mrs. Roberta R. Hall, wife of Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall, died Sunday morning in Providence Hospital from a stroke suffered last Thursday evening.

A resident of Farmington for 54 years, Mrs. Hall was born Aug. 12, 1912, in Denver, Colo. She and Hall were married in 1939 and Mrs. Hall was active in her husband's political life after he was elected Supervisor. She often accompanied him on speaking engagements.

A life member of the Women's District Golf Association, Mrs. Hall was a champion golfer and was top woman golfer at Meadowbrook Country Club for several years. In recent years she was active in the Junior Golf League. She was also a founding member of the Farmington Republican Women's Organization.

Funeral services were held this morning (Wednesday) in the Thayer Funeral Home, the Rev. Carl H. Schultz on Salem United Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in Lake City.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Hall is survived by a son, Michael; two grandchildren; and three brothers, Richard Russell of South Lyon, Robert Russell of Riverside, Calif., and William Russell of Honolulu, Hawaii.

# Ask Congress To Probe Census

A congressional investigation into the 1970 U.S. Census has been requested by the City of Farmington.

Monday night, Farmington City Council instructed its city manager to request the investigation in a letter to Congressman Jack McDonald (R-19th) and senators Philip Hart and Robert Griffin.

THE SUGGESTION came from Councilman Fred Siebert who commented the 1970 census was the most botched-up one he could recall.

Siebert said he had been reading newspaper stories of cities across the nation complaining that the Census Bureau had miscalculated in their communities.

"An investigation ought to be conducted to determine the reasons why the count seems to be in error in so many places."

THE CITY OF Farmington is especially suspicious of the Bureau's ability to accurately count persons because the city believes the count is about 1,000 short of actual figures.

By counting residential watermeters, City Manager John Dinan estimates the city has 350 more households than were counted in the census.

Dinan's estimate also agrees closely with Detroit Edison which, based on number of houses serviced by Edison estimates there are about 305

more households in the city than claimed in the census report.

DINAN HAS already submitted a formal letter of complaint to the regional office of the Census Bureau and hopes to convince federal counters they were in error.

A physical count of homes has been already started by the city and is about halfway finished. As of Monday night, the report picked up 100 residents who allegedly were not counted by census takers.

But Dinan now believes he may have found a gross error committed by the Census Bureau. Dinan suspects that the area annexed to the city in 1966 was included in Farmington Township's count and not credited to the city.

Dinan has forwarded a map to the regional office which will

transmit it to the geography section of the Bureau in Kentucky.

The "missing" 250 homes, if Dinan is right, may have been counted but credited to the township. The Census Bureau gave 48,000 persons to the township which had estimated its population at about 41,000. The 3,000 discrepancy between the township's estimates and the bureau's count may be that the bureau mistakenly considered the annexed area now in the city as township territory.

If the city is successful in raising its census count by 1,000 persons it would mean an additional \$250,000 federal and state revenue over the next 10 years. "Time is of the essence," says Dinan, "if there is going to be a change in these preliminary figures, it has to be done immediately before they are

certified at which time it would be very difficult to make any revision."

Dinan hopes the city can win its argument by mid-August. Although he hopes the map including the annexed area will rescue the city, the physical recount is still being done and should be finished by this weekend.

AS OF MONDAY, summer students conducting the recount had yet to enter the heavier populated areas of Chatham Hills, Wood Craft subdivisions and Jamestown apartments.

The recount, so far, uncovered one family with 11 children which only reported five children on the census form. Because their home was not large enough to accommodate 11, six children were not reported.

This oversight, however, will cost the city \$1,500 in revenue over 10 years unless the Bureau agrees to add the six to its count.

The city encountered a man who refused to give information to either the city or the Bureau because he considered the count an invasion of his civil rights.

Dinan estimates that for every resident not counted the city loses \$25 a year revenue or \$250 over the next 10 years before the 1980 census is taken. Councilman John Richardson commented: "The reason we are so concerned about the census today is because of all the sweet rebates coming back from sweet daddy."

The growth rebates may be reason for the complaints from cities nationwide instead of any gross procedural error on the Bureau's part, he suggested.