

City Council Issues Statement To Clarify Annexation Position

By EMORY DANIELS

The Farmington city council Monday night issued a policy statement in an attempt to clarify the city's position on the proposal to annex the southern half of Farmington Township to the city.

The statement was read by Mayor Wilbur Brotherton at the end of Monday night's regular council meeting. Brotherton stressed the statement had been discussed at length with the other councilmen and carried the weight of their agreement.

A resolution enacting the policy statement passed 5-0.

THE FIRST clarification made was that the annexation petitions filed last October were initiated by city residents and were not filed by the council.

Brotherton stressed that the city fathers did not petition for an annexation election and added it was also township residents, and not township government, which petitioned last October for cityhood for Farmington Township.

"We believe the citizens of both the city and township are entitled to clarification or re-statement of the Farmington City Council's position on these issues," stated Brotherton.

Another observation made by the mayor was that veto of consolidation by city residents should not be used as an argument against annexation.

The council believes, Brotherton explained, that "Even though city residents rejected consolidation, they should have the right to vote on the annexation proposal currently pending, as should affected township residents."

THE CLARIFICATION statement then turned towards discussion of what the city could do for the township area to be annexed if the annexation is realized.

"The city council also believes the city can serve a larger area than its present 2 1/2 square miles at the lowest possible cost while, at the same time improving certain types of city services such as recreation, rubbish removal and street maintenance, thus making this a better place in which to live and raise our families and stimulating community development," it stated.

"Assuming the present annexation proposal is finally voted on favorably," Brotherton continued, "the city council would, as in the present instance, favor giving city residents the opportunity to vote on any future petitions to annex areas contiguous to the city who desire city services."

"We take this position because we believe that the annexation process is the best, most efficient, proven method of assuring the orderly growth and development of a unified community."

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HOMEFOLKS BACK COACH — Farmington residents who travelled to Maumee, Ohio, Saturday give a word of encouragement to Manager Fritz Wenson, The South Farmington Nationals, if they win the national ti-

tle, will be only the third team from Michigan to gain that crown. A complete report on Saturday's big win plus picture coverage can be found on page 3-A. (Observer photo)

Tales Of The Pacific

Peace Corpsman Finds Pacific Isle Engrossing

By VICTOR OMELCZENKO

Swimming in a lagoon, competing in coconut husking contests and relaxing in palm trees are Carl Gaiser's pastimes when he finds a free moment on Lamotrek Island in the Pacific Ocean.

But for the past two years, Carl, 23, of 2633 Old Homestead Court in Farmington, has found himself quite busy teaching English to 73 elementary grade children as a Peace Corps volunteer on Lamotrek.

AFTER GETTING a bachelor of business administration degree from Adrian College, Gaiser applied for the Peace Corps and ended up in Micronesia, a large group of islands east of the Philippines.

"The children I teach are very nice to work with and they feel bad if they miss a day of school," said Gaiser, who came home for a short visit recently.

As the only foreigner on Lamotrek, he says he's been "forced to learn more of the native language," which is called Carolinian.

"Now I've really become involved with the islanders and that's why I'm extending my stay for a third year," explained Gaiser. "I've found enough projects to keep myself busy."

BESIDES TEACHING English, Carl has been helping organize a co-op store where the islanders can buy rice, cloth and other articles. Trading ships regularly come to the island with various merchandise that can be bought, mentioned Carl.

He is also working on improving a water gathering system by catching rain water. "Open wells are now used but the water is poor," Gaiser explained. "The Japanese left

two cement water tanks after World War II which we've refurbished and put a tin roof on to help catch rain water."

Carl has also applied for a grant-in-aid request to the government. "We want to put in a piping system from the tanks to the island's villages."

Although Lamotrek is only seven tenths of a square mile in area, it has three villages and 250 inhabitants. The island is a coral atoll, consisting of a reef surrounding a clear lagoon, and is in the Yap district of Micronesia.

"The island's main commerce comes from copra, the dried meat of the coconut," said Gaiser. "The Lamotrekans live in thatch huts, which Carl says are "something different but I don't mind living in them since it's another step to getting closer to the people."

CARL EATS a root plant called taro, breadfruit, fish, clams, turtles and crabs. The islanders also eat dogs.

"The social life is very limited in the way of dating but there are games such as volleyball, husking coconuts and tree climbing contests," explained Gaiser.

One interesting social custom is the children's taking of the mother's last name and not the father's. "The mother's brother has more authority on the island and is the head of the household," said Gaiser.

"The islanders might be considered primitive in the sense that they don't have any modern conveniences like cars or air conditioners," continued Gaiser. "But as for killings and rapes, they just don't exist," he explained.

"The Lamotrekans really prefer to stick to their own

culture," Carl said. "They don't want to change their style of living or the ways they dance and sing and dress."

THE GIRLS still wear the lava-lava, a skirt made of banana fibers, which Gaiser says are being seen less and less in the more westernized Pacific islands.

"The men wear loincloths and are muscular from climbing coconut trees and fishing," Gaiser said. "I try to fit my schedule around theirs so I can be with them when they go fishing or build canoes."

Carl has gotten a deep tan since his stay on Lamotrek. "But the islanders feel a person is ignorant to just sit in the sun," he said. "They don't see any reason for being tanned but then they already are."

Before Gaiser had arrived on the island, another Peace Corps volunteer from Chicago had already spent some time on Lamotrek.

"These islanders were afraid of Americans before because we're bigger and have more money," said Carl. "But when you come over to the island, sleep on the floor, eat their food, wear their clothes, go fishing and play their games, they come to understand Americans more."

Sells Daisies

The Farmington chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America will be selling blue daisies in the Farmington Area Sept. 11 and 12.

Proceeds will be spent for the chapter's work with veterans' hospitals and to aid disabled vets and widows of veterans.

today's hot line

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what's inside

Another Big Win

The South Farmington All Stars have won the Ohio-Michigan Divisional Championship and will now leave for Kokomo, Ind. for two games to gain the national title. A complete report on their most recent victory and a schedule of games to come is given inside plus pictures of Farmington residents who travelled to Ohio Saturday for the divisional game.

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Woman Scorned

Her name wasn't on the slate to be a delegate to the Republican State Convention and Mrs. Mary Dumas of Livonia didn't agree with five that were. So she challenged.....

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Way To Travel

Three Observerland girls have just sung their way through South America. They report it's a great way to travel.

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Just Like Yesteryear

One Plymouth lady is finding out how it was to dress a family back in pioneer days. Her story is in our Women's Section

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Deposes Father

Kathleen Brang turned 21, graduated magna cum laude with honors in history and political science, considered returning for a law degree and then won election as a Democratic precinct delegate. The latter pushed District Judge Robert Brang of Redford, her father, to a back seat.

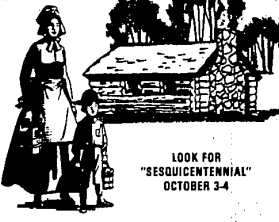
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ISLAND ART -- As a Peace Corps volunteer in the Pacific, Carl Gaiser of Farmington has been teaching English to children on Lamotrek Island. At the same time he's been learning about the art work of the island. Gaiser is holding a wooden flying fish, while two statues of a man and woman rest near him. On his left leg is part of a lava-lava, the women's native dress made from banana fibers. The ship is a model of the outrigger islanders use for fishing and underneath it lies the brightly striped lower half of the lava-lava. (Evert photo)