

Judge Weighs Clark's Fate; Will Tell Decision Tuesday

FARMINGTON Clark may have been testimony has concluded and the judge will announce Dec. 30 whether Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington physician, must stand trial for manslaughter in the 1967 death of Mrs. Hannah Bowerbank.

Detroit Records Judge James McNally III is now reviewing the testimony and evidence introduced during the pre-trial examination to determine if there is reasonable cause to believe a crime was committed and if

Mrs. Nell, who died eight months after Mrs. Bowerbank died on March 20, 1967. He is serving a 3-15 year sentence in Jackson State Prison.

Summons by both attorneys were made Wednesday with Weiswasser urging Judge McNally to bind Clark over to Wayne County Circuit Court to stand trial for manslaughter for Mrs. Bowerbank's death.

CLARK SIGNED the death certificate which stated death was caused by a heart attack. A pathologist testifying at the exam stated death was not of natural causes.

Mrs. Bowerbank's body was exhumed in November 1967, after the Nov. 3 death of Mrs. Neil and state crime lab experts found traces of sodium pentothal on the brain-tissue.

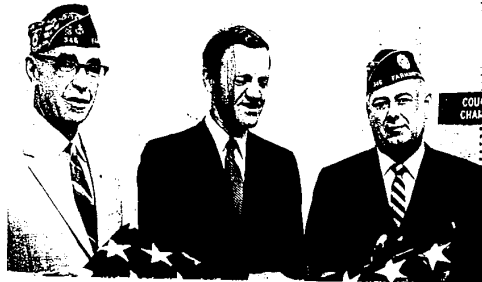
During the examination, it was discovered the samples of brain tissue had been destroyed. Dr. S. David Kutob, chief toxicologist for the state crime lab, testified it was normal procedure to destroy samples after two years, and this was done because he was not told the Bowerbank death was still under investigation.

tempting to establish that Clark caused Mrs. Bowerbank's death by sodium pentothal poisoning. Sodium pentothal, the "truth serum," was found by the courts to have caused the death of Mrs. Neil.

In his summation, Weiswasser contended Mrs. Bowerbank was already dead when Dr. Clark and Mrs. Neil arrived at the deceased's home. He further theorized that Mrs. Neil was put to death by Clark because she was the only witness to Mrs. Bowerbank's death.

Wells described the prosecutor's theories as "unproven, wild speculation."

Wells also argued Mrs. Winsper had been influenced by relatives who are possible heirs to Mrs. Bowerbank's \$100,000 estate being contested by Clark.



GIFT — In Memory of Jim Noujban and Fred Schaupter, Groves Walker Post 346, American Legion, presented new flags to the City of Farmington to be used in the city offices and Memorial Park. Receiving the flags is Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton (center), flanked by Hall Quinn and Bob Hinger, post commander. (Evert photo)

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Township Supports Throwaway Ban Act

FARMINGTON Township is supporting state legislation which, if passed, would ban the use of throwaway bottles and cans.

The township board has gone on record as supporting House Bill 2096, which would ban all non-returnable bottles and cans and require deposits to encourage consumers to return bottles and cans instead of throwing them away.

The resolution of support was introduced at the last township board meeting by Trustee Margaret Schaeffer, who also is a member of the Township of Farmington Beautification Committee.

Maier has been working as a detective for the past two years and has now been promoted to the detective sergeant position formerly held by Earl Teeples.

The trustees approved Supervisor Teeples' recommendation to promote Maier and to make the promotion retroactive to April 1, 1970 with the pay raise also retroactive.

Teeples explained Maier had been promised the detective sergeant's rank by former Supervisor Curtis Hall.

Hall had told Maier the promotion would come after final passage of the budget and would be made retroactive to April 1, explained Teeples.

Elect Ash
FARMINGTON Allan T. Ash of 27481 Forestbrook, Farmington, has been elected vice president of the Plum Hollow Golf Club.

AT THE SAME meeting, the board approved the promotion of George Maier from detective to detective sergeant.

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IN OTHER business, the board voted to furnish nameplates for board members and members of the planning commission.

Discussion was held on the status of senior citizen housing being studied by the township's Housing Commission. Earl Opperhauser, trustee and Housing Commission chairman, explained application has been made for a planning grant but approval has not yet been granted.

Opperhauser agreed to continue checking with the Detroit office of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on the status of the township's application.

A resolution was adopted asking Oakland County to assume maintenance on newly paved roads in Staman Acres and Kimberly subdivisions.

THE BOARD appointed Teeples as the township's delegate to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and Clerk Floyd Cairns as alternate.

Trustee Fred Lichtman questioned whether it was proper for the township to pay membership fees to the State

Bar of Michigan for Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand. Teeples agreed to discuss the matter with Judge Hand.

Teeples asked Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan to check the possibility of getting a refund for the money the township paid for the defense of Patrolman John Hedrick. Hedrick, president of the Farmington Township Police Officers Association (POA), had been charged with assault and battery and found innocent by Southfield District Court.

The township agreed to pay Hedrick's legal fees after he had been found innocent. Teeples claimed the decision to pay the fees was made without legal advice from Brennan.

RECENTLY, Brennan has given the board a legal opinion that the township cannot pay for the successful defense of a criminal charge.

Teeples contends that the payment of Hedrick's fees was illegal and attempts should be made to obtain a refund of "an illegal township expenditure."

During the question-answer period, a discussion was held about the nuisance created by snowmobile operators — particularly in the area of Meadowbrook Hills subdivision near Eight Mile and Halstead Rds.

Peel's History
FARMINGTON During his sabbatical year, while absent from his teaching duties at Farmington High School, Lee S. Peel, journalism instructor, completed the manuscript for a book entitled "Farmington, Michigan: A Pictorial History."

He is currently writing captions for the book's 400 illustrations and expects a publication date in October or November of 1971.

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