

# The Farmington Enterprise

Vol. XLII No. 40.

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND CO UNTY, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 11, 1927

5 Cents Single Copy; \$1.50 a Year.

## FOREST PASSES, CITY IS BUILT IN A LIFETIME

### Indians Roamed This Section During Boyhood Of Constantine Collins

(Note—The Enterprise presents herewith a sketch of the life of Constantine Collins, pioneer of this section, who died recently. This article is by N. H. Power, Farmington's historian, and unfolds a picture of the settlement and development of Farmington as it passed before the eyes of one of Farmington's early residents.—The Editor.)

By N. H. Power  
In the death of Constantine Collins, which occurred July 21 at his home, Farmington lost its oldest inhabitant. He was 93 years, old last April. His father and mother were among the very first pioneers, having located here in May, 1824.

His mother was the first white woman to settle in Farmington. She too, lived to a good old age, and died December 29, 1886, aged 92 years.

Mr. Collins in his long life saw many great and far-reaching changes in this vicinity. In his early boyhood the Indians from their reservation near Lansing, in making their annual trips to Detroit to collect their bounty, passed right by the door of his father's home, a log cabin which stood on Shiawassee avenue on the site now owned and occupied by George Gildemeister.

Street Is Old Trail  
This street is a part of the old Indian trail. Occasionally a straying number of the tribe, tired and hungry, would stop and ask for food. This was always given him by Mrs. Collins if she thought he was worthy and deserving. If he was drunk and ugly she did not hesitate to refuse and on one occasion seized the ax and drove the unwelcome guest from the place.

One Street In Town  
The small pioneer settlement with its log stores and dwellings was located on Shiawassee avenue west of the McGee hill. At the foot of this hill was the grist mill of Arthur Power, the dam of which can still be traced. Mr. Collins remembered well the first storekeepers, James and Mead and Henry Miller. His father also conducted a store and was the second postmaster, succeeding Dr. Webb.

The late Mr. Collins was well acquainted with Dr. Wixom and Dr. Hudson, pioneer physicians of the town.  
The Collins property extended south along Division street to the Fenick road and the writer of this article well remembers seeing Mr. Collins milk his cows on land now occupied by the Town Hall.

Saw Forests Pass  
He was well acquainted with the struggle that the pioneer waged with nature and saw the dark forests give way to the broad and fertile acres of our present day. He saw bridge paths and Indian trails succeeded by dirt roads and they in turn replaced by our present cement highways that traverse the country in every direction.

Helped Build Grand River  
He helped construct our present Grand River avenue in 1851, and saw the transfer of the business portion of the town to its present location. He saw the ox team and the stage with their slow and tedious movement give way to the automobile. The span of his life saw greater changes and greater advancement not only in local affairs and conditions, but greater in every branch of human endeavor. Space will not permit their enumeration in this article.

Was A Republican  
Deceased was a Republican in politics and liberal in his religious beliefs. He married Elizabeth Conroy, who died in 1900. Her death was a great loss to him, and through all the years the memory of her was a sacred and tender thing with him.

## THE WORLD IMPROVES— COURT EXPENSES ARE \$40 MORE THAN FINES

The world, in the vicinity of Farmington, seems to be getting better.  
A report of Justice of the Peace John J. Schulte of Farmington to the City Commission Monday night shows that during June the court had expenses of \$50.82, but collected only \$14 in fines. Last summer fines exceeded expenses by more than \$1,000.  
The Judge denies his heart is becoming softer, so the world must be getting better.

## LEGNIAIRES ARE PLANNING BIGGEST OF ALL GALA DAYS

### Preparations Now Under Way For Celebration To Be Held Labor Day

Preparing to make Gala Day this year the biggest ever held in Farmington, members of Groves-Walker Post, American Legion, are holding weekly meetings to complete plans for the big celebration on Labor Day, September 5th.

All committees have been appointed and are at work upon the various phases of the affair. It is announced that all of the most popular features of last year will be presented again, and that many new and interesting ones will be added.

This year's Gala Day celebration will be the sixth annual and will probably surpass all previous records, both in number and variety of attractions and in crowds attending. Each year the Legionnaires have drawn visitors from all over Southern Michigan, and many out-of-town delegations are expected to motor to Farmington for the big day.

Two Ball Games  
In addition to the many amusements, races, and other diversions, there will be two baseball games, three vaudeville entertainments, three three-class acts at each performance, and a concert by a first-class band from Holly. In accordance with custom, a new Ford car will be given to one lucky person in attendance at the Gala Day celebration.

The ball game should be the best ever played on Gala Day in Farmington. The first game will see Walled Lake clash with the Clyde team. The aggregations have met before this season, and are about on a par, both having excellent records. The winner of the Walled Lake-Clyde game will play West Point Park in the final contest of the day. West Point Park has won 15 out of 19 games thus far this season, defeating many fast Detroit teams. A number of Farmington boys are members of the West Point Park team. Carl Goers, who has been doing some excellent pitching, being among them.

The games will be played on the ball grounds at the south end of Maple avenue. The diamond will be put in good shape to insure a fast contest.

Business Men Help  
A number of Farmington business men have already shown interest in the Gala Day plans by offering prizes and souvenirs to aid the Legion in making the day a successful one, and to assist in adding a considerable sum to the local Legion post's building fund. Details regarding these gifts will be announced later.

The Legion post will continue to meet each Thursday night until after Gala Day.

## COME OFTEN

To Farmington, and just as often as you come you'll find a safe place to park your car, in the city's FREE parking lot, on Farmington road, just south of Grand River. "Walk a block and be safe."

He leaves one son, Gale Collins who did all in his power to make his father's declining years happy and comfortable.

In his death our community has lost a respected pioneer, almost the last survivor of a hardy company of men and women that made our present civilization with its comforts and advantages.

## "Sunshine Special" To Take Kiddies Of Farmington For A Day Of Joy

Every boy and girl in Farmington who wants to a real good time for a whole day can have one next Thursday, for on that day members of the local Exchange Club will take them on the "Sunshine Special" to the Milford County Fair.

Few need be told what the Sunshine Special is. The Exchange Clubs of Oakland County being to the Milford fair on the same day all of the children of their various communities who care to come for a real good time, as guests of the Exchange Clubs. All that is necessary is for the kiddies to meet in front of the Farmington Methodist Church at 9:00 o'clock next Thursday morning.

Automobiles will be provided by members of the Farmington Exchange Club. Mothers may be assured that their children will be taken care of, and need only provide with a good lunch before they start. The Exchange Club will take them to the Fair and bring them back safely.

The Exchange Club will provide cars and everything will be free to the kiddies. The club will endeavor to capture one or both of the prizes offered for bringing the largest number of children, and for the largest number of miles traveled by the delegations.

There are prizes also for the best floats, a silver cup being awarded to the winner. The nature of the float the local club will enter has not yet been announced.

Expect 2000 Children  
It is expected that 2,000 children will be brought to the fair this year, 800 having attended a year ago.

All members of the Exchange Club are requested to bring their cars to the Methodist Church at 9:00 o'clock Thursday, in order that there may be plenty of cars to accommodate all children without crowding.

Archie Leonard and Carl Hogle are in charge of arrangements for the "Sunshine Special" from Farmington.

## AUTOS NOW BACK ON TOWARD CURB ON FARMINGTON ROAD

### System Is Changed; Angle Parking May Be Tried On North Side of Grand River

A new method of parking automobiles on Farmington road in Farmington is being tried out by the city, under the supervision of George Grant, superintendent of public works.

The pavement on the east side of the street has been painted to guide motorists in parking at an angle, and automobiles will be backed to the curb rather than facing the curb. Officials believe that more cars can be accommodated by this system, which will be given a thorough trial.

Police officials are also considering a trial of angle parking on the north side of Grand River according to Superintendent Grant. A tabulation shows that only about a dozen cars can be parked parallel on Grand River between Farmington road and the Grace Hotel. He believes that three times that number can be accommodated by angle parking.

## Parallel On One Side

Parking on the south side of Grand River will continue to be parallel to the curb, the width of Grand River hardly permitting angle parking on both sides, even should the experiment prove successful on the north side. Parking on the west side of Farmington road also is to be parallel to the curb.

Motorists are asked to co-operate with the city in putting the new parking system into effect or better still, to take full advantage of the parking lot on Farmington road, just a few steps south of Grand River.

## WEST POINT PARK BALL TEAM PLAYS CRANE CO. SUNDAY

### Best Game Of Season Expected On West Point Park Grounds; Goers May Pitch

A baseball game that is expected to be the "thriller" of the season in this section is scheduled for next Sunday at West Point Park grounds, when the West Point Park team clashes with the fast Crane Company aggregation of Detroit.

The two teams met recently, and an interesting contest developed. Crane Company won, 2 to 0. It was one of the four games dropped by West Point Park this season, the team having won 15 out of 19 games.

Carl Goers, of Farmington, who has been doing some excellent pitching, will probably hurl for West Point Park Sunday. West Point Park hitters will stack up against some real pitching, too. Crane Company having engaged a former St. Louis hurler, according to reports reaching West Point Park.

The game is scheduled to start at 3:00 o'clock on the West Point Park grounds.

## HOLCOMB PROPERTY ON GRAND RIVER LEASED TO BUICK

### Site In Center Of Town Chosen For New Garage; To Rush Building

The property on the south side of Grand River avenue next to the D. U. R. freight office, owned by Dr. E. F. Holcomb, is to be the site of the new Buick garage in Farmington. Construction of a new building will be started next week.

Negotiations for a five-year lease on the property and building have been practically completed, the terms having been fully agreed upon. The building will be a \$12,000 one-story garage, to be erected by Amos Otis. It will resemble closely the Chevrolet building recently completed a block farther east on Grand River avenue by R. H. Mils.

The Buick building, however, will have a front entrance for cars. It will be 50x100 feet, and include a salesroom, parts department, and spacious service room.

## Will Rush Construction

The two-family flat building now standing on the Holcomb property will be moved or torn down soon, and it is expected that the new garage will be ready for occupancy within 60 days.

The selection of the Holcomb site follows thorough investigation of Farmington property and available locations by representatives of the Buick company.

The lease on the Holcomb property and building is to be for five years. George G. Checketts of Detroit is to have the Buick agency in Farmington, and is already spending considerable time in the city.

## SAFETY OF WATER IN FARMINGTON IS STILL A QUESTION

### City Officials Unable To Make Definite Statement On Safety Of Water

In the absence of Dr. J. A. Miller, city health officer, it has been found impossible to secure a definite statement on the water situation in Farmington.

Information is to the effect that all of the water mains except those in the vicinity of Lakeway Drive and Farmington Junction have been cleared up, but this is not official.

City officials interviewed were unwilling to be quoted, either as advising residents to continue boiling the water, or that it was safe to discontinue such precaution.

In the case of one main, county officials are said to have reported the water unsafe for use, but the State authorities are also said to have declared the water from the same main is safe. City officials stated that they are still awaiting further reports from the county laboratories.

## LEGION BOYS PAINT TOWN RED, WHITE AND BLUE WITH STICKERS

Is your car "all stuck up" yet? Most of Farmington and vicinity has been visited within the past few days by members of the American Legion, armed with windshield stickers proclaiming to the world that Gala Day, 1927, will be bigger and better than ever before in history.

If you haven't secured a red white and blue sticker and want to help the boys advertise their event, communicate with any member of the American Legion or call at the Enterprise office. There's a sticker waiting for your car.

## COLLECTION OF GARBAGE IN CITY BEGINS TUESDAY

### City Commission Completes Arrangements For Weekly Pickup Of Refuse

One of the perplexing problems in connection which the Farmington City Commission has had to face has apparently been solved with the completion of an arrangement for the collection of garbage throughout the city. The Commission last Monday night completed negotiations with E. C. Cole of the Sanitary Service Company.

Under the arrangement, the Sanitary Service Company will collect the garbage from city residences for 25 cents per week, calling twice a week throughout the warm weather, with a possible change to once a week in winter. Garbage will be collected from stores for a slightly higher rate.

The collection will begin next Tuesday, August 16th, and will be made on Tuesdays and Fridays thereafter. Residents are advised to secure suitable receptacles, of at least ten gallons capacity, from which the garbage may be collected.

Has Commission's Approval  
The Sanitary Service Company has the complete approval and support of the City Commission, the members of which believe that the plan offers a practical solution of the problem. The Commissioners urge all residents to avail themselves of this convenient service. Reports already received indicate that a large proportion of residents are eager to take advantage of the new service offered.

The Commission favors the plan of individual payment rather than having the city organize a collection system and spreading the cost upon the tax rolls. The method decided upon places the cost on those who derive direct benefit from the service, and also relieves the city of what would undoubtedly prove a continuous administrative burden.

Service may be arranged for by telephoning or otherwise notifying City Clerk N. H. Power. It is urged that all who wish service give notice without delay.

Will Collect Ashes  
A feature of the service which the Commissioners believe will prove popular, is that the Sanitary Service Company will collect ashes in winter at the same price, 25 cents per week. If residents desire both ashes and garbage collected, this will be done for 50 cents per week, or the ashes alone will be collected for 25 cents per week per household.

In each case, the prices are for one family. In apartment houses, the charge is 25 cents per family, regardless of the number of apartments.

FARMINGTON RESIDENTS ENJOY A BRIDGE PARTY AT MAPLE RIDGE CLUB

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer J. Heeny, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bickling, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hibborn, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hogle, Mr. and Mrs. William Banks and Dr. and Mrs. Frank Weaver attended a bridge and dinner dance at the Maple Ridge Country Club Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Heeny, Mrs. William Banks and Mrs. Hogle of Redford were prize winners.

## CITY WILL END DOUBLE PARKING; NEW FREE GROUND

### To Enforce Ordinance; New Free Parking Lot Affords Motorists Easy Solution

The City Commission of Farmington this week is taking steps to stop double parking on Grand River avenue and at the same time prevent the development of "parking problem" in Farmington.

Notice is given in this issue that the ordinance against double parking will be strictly enforced. Motorists however, will not be unaided in their efforts to find a place to put their cars.

Through the courtesy of the Farmington Lumber and Coal Co., a large vacant lot on State street just off Farmington road has been secured for use as a free parking ground. Automobiles may be parked there without charge and without time limit.

Near Grand River  
The new parking lot is just a few steps from Grand River and the center of town, being opposite Farmington Mills. City officials point out that it is quite a convenience to the parking ground and then walk to the various stores than to hunt for even a few minutes along Grand River or Farmington road for a parking space.

The city will not take the drastic step of hauling motorists into court for double parking at once, but will carry on a campaign of educating motorists to the use of the new facilities for parking. Motorists who park double will be informed that they are violating the law and will be told of the parking facilities offered them.

Will Watch Offenders  
After a reasonable time, the city will begin ordering violators to court, before Justice John J. Schulte. Second offenders will be liable to severe penalty, although they may only have been warned the first time by police officers.

To carry on the work of educating motorists in relieving congestion, the city will distribute notices to owners of automobiles, and particular care will be taken to see that owners of cars parked double receive these notices. The latter will receive only a warning at first, but a record will be kept, and any who have been warned once, will be arranged in court when the police again detect the offender on double parking.

The City officials believe that Farmington is particularly fortunate in being allowed the use of a large lot so close to the stores, and that the parking situation must be taken in hand at once, because every year sees an increasing number of cars parked on city streets.

The land on the new parking lot is rather sloping, and is low in some places, but it is believed that if motorists take advantage of the new ground, it may be found advisable to direct some attention toward improving it.

CLYDE McDERMOTT IS MARRIED AT HOME OF BRIDE IN NORTHVILLE

A quiet wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Seeley, 521 Randolph st., Northville, Tuesday afternoon when the latter's daughter, Flora I. Peterson, was united in marriage to Clyde McDermott of Farmington. The ceremony was performed by Rev. William Richards of Northville in the presence of the immediate family.

Both parties are well known in Northville and Farmington. The bride has been employed for the past ten years at the Detroit Edison Co.'s office at Northville, and the groom has been employed at the Ford Sales and Service at Farmington for several years. They have hosts of friends in both places who, in wishing them a happy and prosperous wedded life.

Mr. and Mrs. McDermott will be at home to their many friends at their new bungalow at West Point Park.