

The Farmington Enterprise

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By Edgar R. Bloomer

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Editorial

WE NEED THEM

Discussion at the Farmington Exchange Club Wednesday brought to the fore a problem that Farmington must solve if more serious accidents like that of last Friday are to be avoided. Steps must be taken at once to protect our school children from the hazards of Grand River traffic.

Important as the situation with regard to children is, it is not the entire problem. Grand River is entirely too dangerous for adults as well. Consideration of present conditions should include a program that will protect us all. The suggestion of an additional city officer for day duty, who might watch the children's crossing and control traffic is one that must sooner or later be adopted.

As Mayor Butterfield pointed out, no matter how eager County officers might be to help, they cannot, because they are subject to County calls at any moment, arrange to be at any stipulated spot on Grand River at an appointed hour. Further, there are City matters now neglected, which demand an additional man.

Yet even engaging a day officer is not going to make Grand River avenue in Farmington as safe as it should be, unless he patrols the avenue every minute of the day. Vehicles travel at far too high speeds, between the Cemetery and Farmington Junction. Automobiles, trucks and trailers whiz through the business section at 30 and 35 miles an hour whenever the traffic signal at Division street favors them.

Farmington needs two more automatic traffic signals, with lights changing at short intervals, between Division street and the city limits east and west, to slow down traffic before it reaches the business section. A light at the corner of Oakland avenue and Grand River, and another at School street, with only about ten-second "stop" and "go" periods, would cut down the speed without causing tie-ups and congestion. The flashes would really be long "flickers," long enough, however, so that every driver is bound to face a red signal either on approaching or arriving at the light.

The ten seconds would give pedestrians, whether school children or adults, opportunity to cross the street in safety.

Other communities between here and Lansing have adopted this system of "breaking" traffic. In fact, Farmington is probably the only town of its size between Detroit and Lansing which has but one traffic light within the town limits, on Grand River avenue.

Investment in two signal lights may save the lives not only of Farmington children, but of adults as well. As a further measure of safety, every vehicle coming from the west and turning south on Division street, should be required to come to a full stop before making the turn. One driver of a big touring-car, turns this dangerous corner about 5:30 p. m. almost

every day at 30 miles an hour and upward. Then he "steps on it."

HERE'S WHAT WE SAY!

"What do you say?" asks a "Reader" in last week's Enterprise, writing about that perennial pile of garbage in back of the police booth.

What do we say? We say that hardly anything can be said fit to describe it. The existence of such a condition in the very heart of Farmington ought to arouse from every citizen a protest ten times as powerful as the aroma which floats upward from the decaying fruit and vegetables, the rusting tin-cans. We say that one does not need to have an eye for beauty to be indignant over the persistence of such an eyesore.

But we'd like to say one thing more. Second only to the garbage heap on Grand River is the display of ancient automobiles which graces (?) the alley running west from Division street, just north of the Enterprise office. In the rear of this alley repose the remains of no less than ten motor cars, in varying stages of decomposition. None of them will ever again feel "the thrill of the open road."

Touring cars, mostly, but here and there a coupe or sedan which does not disdain the low company of an open car. Scattered in reckless disregard of form and symmetry, the collection nevertheless has its crowning glory. It is an ancient touring-car, its top long since gone to the four winds. Its front seat reposes atop the rear one, upside down, springs to the sky, and on top of it all reclines one of last year's Christmas trees, a bit storm-beaten, a bit unkempt, but faithful to the last.

What would anyone say about the garbage heap, and the automobiles passe? He would say, or at least he ought to, that they reflect upon the whole town. They are a community disgrace.

WHAT MAN WILL DO TO MAN

Read this. Read it all through—if you can.

Before 200 spectators who held official tickets, six convicts, five of them Negroes, were whipped with a lash today until they had to have medical care.

Under orders of a court, your men were given 40 lashes and two others 20 lashes in the Newcastle County work house. As Warden Elmer J. Leach finished the whippings, raw, welts were noticeable on the backs of the six convicts. All of them were in a weakened condition after the whippings and had to be assisted to their cells where they were given medical treatment.

One at a time the men were taken to the whipping post and strapped. Their arms stretched out and bound fast. A broad band went around the waist and several smaller bands held the men's legs. Then the warden used a cat-o-nine tails on the bare backs of the convicts. Usually the warden uses only his wrist in the swing, but today he brought the lash down with force for the full number of beats. The men writhed and muttered.

Is this a tale out of the days of the cruel Inquisition? Out of the dark Middle Ages? Out of the time of 1431 when Joan of Arc was burned at the stake as a witch because she didn't win every battle into which she led French troops? Even out of the pages of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" with its merciless beating of slaves by heartless Simon Legree?

No, not at all. This is a news dispatch printed in one of the Detroit Sunday papers, and this thing happened in the City of Wilmington, State of Delaware, United States of America, on the sixteenth day of March, in the year of "the highest civilization the world has ever known," nineteen hundred and twenty-nine. "Whipped with a lash until they had to have medical care." And—most horrible of all—two hundred people who undoubtedly

call themselves civilized, applied for or accepted tickets to this spectacle.

And this is the sort of thing that some people wanted, a short time ago, to see brought into the State of Michigan.

Civilization?

If The Enterprise does no more good than keep the family home long enough to read it, it is worth while.

CHURCHES

Methodist Church

Dr. H. Addis Leeson, Pastor.
Palm Sunday will be appropriately observed at the Methodist Church. The Pastor's morning sermon will have for its subject "Palms and Willows." At the Vespers service which is being substituted for the regular evening hour and is held at 5:30 o'clock, there will be a special speaker in the person of Rev. William Lovejoy, a student in the Theological Seminary at Evanston, Ill. This young minister will be a guest over the Easter vacation at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ross of North Farmington. Immediately following the Vespers, a simple Sunday evening lunch will be served in the dining room. This lunch will be served this week by the young people under the chairmanship of Elbert Walling. Everybody invited.

Evangelical Church

Rev. A. A. Schoen, Pastor.
Confirmation service, 10:15.
Subject, "Faithful unto Death." The following are members of the confirmation class:
Howard Weast, Emma Ische, Marian Warm, Margaret Doeblen, Doris Schroeder, Helma Warm, Magdalena Himmelspach, Emily Maas.

Sunday service, 11:30.
One hundred in our school.
Evening worship, 7:30.
This will be a Reunion Service of all confirmation classes consisting of: addresses, songs, a quartette, a presentation story entitled, "Following the King."

Good Friday:
German service, 10:15.
Communion follows.
Community service, 1:30.
All congregations, choirs and ministers participating.

Baptist Church

Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor.
10:30—Morning worship.
Sermon theme, "The Cross, Our Supreme Message."
11:45—Bible School.
Last Sunday we had the largest attendance we ever had. There are classes for all ages.

6:30—Young People's hour.
Mrs. A. C. McDonald will speak.
7:30—Evangelistic service.
The attendance is increasing each week. The church was almost filled last week. We invited all the people of Farmington to attend these evening services. This week the pastor will speak on "The Value of the Cross."

There will be preaching services Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at the church. The public is invited to all our services.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarenceville

(At Switzer Road)
Rev. Paul Grams, Pastor.
9:30—Sunday School.
10:30—Confirmation service.
8:00 p. m. Good Friday—English service.

On Easter Sunday German service in the morning and English communion service in the evening.
"Christ was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."—Rom. 4:25

Universalist Church

Dr. Frank D. Adams, Pastor.
Regular preaching services will be held in the Farmington Universalist Church next Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Dr. Adams' sermon theme will be "Those Reversed Institutions!"

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Rev. James A. Callahan, Pastor.
Sunday masses at 8:30 and 11.
Daily mass at 8:00.

West Point Park Independent Church

Rev. George Gullen, Pastor.
10:30—"The Forgotten Hope." Object talk: "Violets."
11:45—Sunday School.
6:30—Christian Endeavor.
7:30—Maurice Boyjian, "Armenia and the Turks."

Clarenceville M. E. Church

Rev. Robert Richards, Pastor.
10:30—Morning worship.
11:30—Sunday School.
7:30—Evening service.

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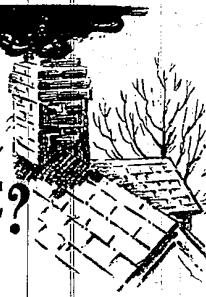


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