

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

"AS THEY WOULD THEIR OWN"

To "handle the public's business as you would your own private business" is the duty of every public official—and the practice of all conscientious ones. It is, in fact, a standard by which those in office may always be judged.

On this basis, the people of Farmington Township may well have confidence, and take pride in the members of their Township Board. The recent action of the Board in regard to an important civic matter indicates that they do not only place the interests of the people first, but also that they are conducting affairs with foresight and good business judgment.

The proposed large memorial park for the northwest corner of the Township, approved ten days ago, should undoubtedly prove of great value to the Township in providing employment and aiding in general development. There is, however, the consideration that it, like other cemeteries, will be exempt from taxation, thus removing an area of several hundred acres from the Township rolls.

If at the same time, the property were to be exempted from taxation for special improvements, such as drains and paving, it might result in particular hardship upon the neighboring properties, among which the cost would be divided. The agreement then, required by the Farmington Township Board, and endorsed upon the plat accepted by the Board, that the new memorial park is to pay assessments for special improvements in the same manner as if it were not exempt from taxation, is not only fair in every respect but a protective measure which shows that Farmington Township's officials are indeed caring for the people's business "as they would their own."

"SELF-STARTERS" SELF-HELPERS

In last week's issue the Enterprise noted the good start made by the new City Commission—and called upon all citizens to help them make Farmington a better city by lending their undivided support.

It seems, however, that the new Commission isn't willing to wait for someone else to help them, but acts upon the principle of "The Lord helps them who help themselves." As a result of the conference with the County Road Commission obtained by Commissioner Emory Hutton and his special roads committee, the prospects for the widening of Grand River seem much brighter than for some time past.

If every committee or department of the city government goes about its work as energetically and intelligently as this one has, the Commission, and the Mayor, will not need to ask the city for its support. They will win it, in large measure, without difficulty.

ONE OF A CHOSEN FEW

In every community, large or small, it seems to be given to a few to occupy a peculiar place. Endowed not only with friendly and kindly disposition, but also with the rare power to make their qualities felt, to disseminate this spirit alike among old friends and new acquaintances, they win in their own sphere the well-deserved tribute, "beloved by all."

Among the first of these in Farmington was Mrs. Lucille Power Riddle, whose premature passing has saddened the entire community. As she was widely loved, so is she widely mourned. May the husband and son, and the parents, whose burden is indeed a heavy one, take comfort in the knowledge that Mrs. Riddle's life was such that there are many who share their sorrow.

NOT BY WEALTH—BUT BY WORKS

The gift of Senator James Couzens of ten million dollars to promote the welfare of the children of Michigan, and this world a few days ago focused attention once more upon the Children's Hospital of Michigan, which has been so bountifully aided by this public-spirited citizen.

But we would like also for a moment to focus some attention upon the work of a number of Farmington women who have not the means to give huge sums of money, but who have showed by their interest in the Hospital that we are glad Farmington was chosen as the site for this home. These women, who devoted many hours to sewing for the children, speak well for Farmington's interest in the boys and girls who have been brought out here to gain strength and recover from their infirmities.

Not So Very Different

The lowly "hot dog" has swept J. Waddy Tate, former minor official in a railroad office, into the office of mayor of Dallas," says a story in a Detroit newspaper, which seems to regard it as very amusing.

Recalling the recent antics of the Detroit City Council however, we can't see that there's much difference between Detroit and Dallas. In Dallas an official is "swept into office by hot dogs," and in Detroit most of them are blown in by their own hot air.

IF IT WERE A FEW YEARS AGO

The engineers and technicians of the telephone companies, and The Michigan Bell Telephone and Roy E. Crowe locally, have ruined a perfectly good joke for us. If it were in the old days, even if it were only a few years ago, we could write a note something like this:

"So many remarkable things have been demonstrated with electricity and telephones by Dr. Sergius P. Grace, one of Farmington's 'home town boys who made good,' that we have come to believe he can do almost anything. Last week it was recorded that he had shown how to 'bottle up' a telephone message in a wire so that it was received several seconds later."

"There's another thing we'd like to have him try, however, and great as is our faith in him, we're afraid this one would just about 'stump' even Dr. Sergius P. Grace. What we'd like to have him show us is not how to cause delay in telephoning, but how to eliminate it."

Well, as we say, a few years ago that would have brought a good laugh and a big "bravo" from almost everybody. But now, days, when you can pick up the phone and reach any place in Michigan while you "hold the wire," and New York or any other place in the country within a few minutes, it falls rather flat.

What we want to know is, what will the columnists and the playwrights do for wise-cracks if the engineers keep on?

OUR HAT IS OFF

Our editorial hat came off to Mr. Warren Henderson, Farmington business-man, and our neighbors (across the back lots) a couple of days ago when he and one of his employees went to work with a truck in the alley running west from Division street and cleaned out an uncounted number of what long ago were motor cars.

They did a good job, and if some still remains to be done, the larger part of the debris, at least, has been removed. The view is improved, immensely—and we're proud to have had even so small a part in it as our attempt a few weeks ago to describe the cars and tell our readers the years in which most of them were made.

A WISE STEP

It is a wise provision that has been made by the Farmington Board of Education for full-year employment of the school nurse. It cannot but prove of much good to the health of the children in the community.

As pointed out by one member of the Board, corrective steps are better undertaken in summer than in winter—the weather is more favorable and there is no time lost from school work. The salary of the nurse for the extra time is as good an investment as the Board could make.

Ring's Low-Down on Deep Subject

By RING LARDNER

To the Editor:

It seems like as if it was yesterday to me that a big argument which has been waged between Al Mamau and Jack Kieran. It must be explained that Mr. Kieran is one of the baseball writers on the New York Times and a prominent golf player. Mr. Mamau is somewhat of a veteran big league baseball pitcher, who used to be the best singer in the big leagues. The argument was reported by Mr. Henry Salsinger of the Detroit News. Mr. Salsinger is a tall, slim, handsome brunette, who looks not unlike the writer only he has more hair.

Well it seems like Mr. Mamau and Mr. Kieran got into a dining argument. Mr. Mamau claimed that if you took a bucket, the bucket would weigh just the same like as if no fish had been dropped into it. "A live fish can't possibly increase the weight of water," said Mr. Mamau. "A dead fish, that is different matter because that would be dead weight."

Well they went to a laboratory in Detroit where this bitter argument started and asked the professor of fish which was right and who was wrong, so the professor said he would make a test but he didn't have no live fish on hand that day and Mr. Mamau would not stand for no test being made with a dead fish. Finally they went to a fish market and they had a tub full of water there weighing 55 pounds and they found a fish named Cap (which weighed three pounds) and they put it in the tub and then weighed the total which weighed 57 pounds so Mr. Mamau claimed that clinched his argument because in the first place the fish was dead and in the second place he only increased the weight of the tub two pounds whereas the fish man admitted that his weight before being dropped into the tub was three pounds.

"That shows how right I am," said Mr. Mamau. "No it don't," retorted Mr. Kieran, "All it proves is that nobody with any brains should ought to buy fish from this market."

Well friends the reason I feel called upon to burn into this argument is that all my life I been making a study of weights and displacements and etc. and I will give you a few facts to prove that it is a very tricky subject and a person should not ought to get into no argument in regards to same unless they have mastered it.

If you will go into a restaurant and order a large glass of milk and weigh it before you touch cup to lip you will find that the total weight is about one ounce. Then if you will wait a few moments till a fly drops into the glass and weigh it again, why if the fly is just a common fly and still alive you will find that the weight of the entire project didn't increased even one fly weight but if the fly was dead when it dropped in, why then will be a increased weight of 10 and 40 hundred millions specifically if the fly was a horse fly.

On the other hand if you take a pail of water or beer and drop a live rat in same, the weight of the pail will increase exactly as much as the rat weighed in the first place and if you make it two rats, the weight will increase two rats. But if one or both of the rats happens to get drowned, they will come to the surface looking like drowned rats and at the same time proving that they didn't weigh nothing or they would of sank. It is kind of dangerous to make this test in a pail of beer as the rats goes right to it and are able to reach the slinging stage.

The most conclusive test I ever made upon these lines was one time when I took a night boat from N. Y. to Albany on the Hudson river. First it was necessary to weigh the river and then the boat when it was empty and afterwards when all the passengers got a board. This I made all the passengers come into the weighing room and get weighed one by one. When the boat got to Albany the next morning the river looked just like it did the last time I was up there.

Prof. Stump of Severn University, New Hampshire, once made a experiment which perhaps proves more than the foregoing. He weighed all the passengers that was going on a trip from New York to Cherbourg and then weighed them all again when the ship got to Cherbourg. They didn't weigh nowhere near as much. Prof. Stump was much impressed.

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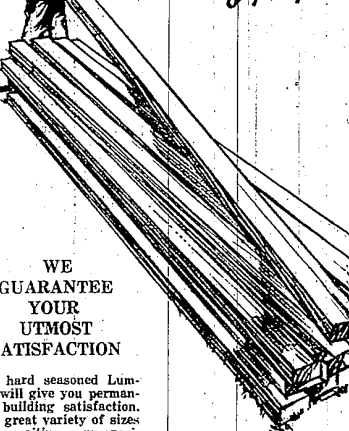
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