

The Farmington Enterprise

Established 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland County, Mich., as second-class matter.

Byman, Levinson & Co., Publishers

Editor and Publisher

Member Michigan Press Association

Member National Editorial Association

Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, May 2, 1929

Editorials

WHAT HAS BECOME OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT?

To those who attended the special meeting of Farmington's City Commission last Thursday evening, two things were easily apparent. One is that our Mayor and Commission have the capacity and courage to tackle a difficult problem, to come to a decision (and that with considerable foresight), and to put their decision into action.

The other is not quite so satisfying—in fact, it is a very disturbing thing. For the discussion indicated that there is no real existence anything like real local self-government.

As to the first, there can be no question but that the Commission took "the long view." That is, the members considered how the effect the decision might have upon Farmington's future, and realizing full well that everyone might not agree, the Commissioners resolutely took the step which they deemed wisest.

Nor can there be much doubt that the reduction of the Farmington Woods assessment was not only fair, but absolutely imperative. One Commissioner put it in a few words when he said, "We must not tax people away from this town." With a dozen suburbs clamoring for Detroit's outpouring population, and Farmington lagging, somewhat discouragingly behind them all, we could not afford the blow to our prestige which the abandonment of Farmington Woods would inflict.

The City Commission, then, was able to grant a reduction of the City's portion of the taxes. All the rest of the discussion, however, brought home very sharply just one astonishing thing—that to a very large extent we of this little community are governed by a seemingly far-off organization called "the State." Two Farmington officials who know Farmington property values better than anyone else, declared that they had always believed the assessments were too high. Yet they were able to do nothing about it. They could not lower it because of the attitude of "the State" officials who, instead of being willing to reduce the valuation, talked of increasing it.

So vast has become the business of governing, even one State of the forty-eight that the individual community can no longer decide even how much it will tax its property-owners. Possibly this must be so—perhaps there is no other way. But still it's a disquieting thought—in the greatest self-governing nation on earth.

WONDER WHAT THE driver of that truck whose two trailers went into the ditch and stayed there for 24 hours Saturday, night and Sunday, would have to say about wider Grand River?

"THEY WERE THE FIRST"

The frost went out of the ground this spring in such a way that Farmington's unpaved streets were not, as last year, converted into seemingly bottomless mudholes. Yet it is none the less cause for rejoicing that owners of property on two streets have prepared petitions for pavement.

Next Spring, then, the residents of these two streets should not have to worry how the frost goes out, or how much rain falls. Nor, in the following summer, how much dust is blown in as motor cars pass by.

IT'S NONE OF OUR AFFAIR EITHER, BUT—

"It's none of our affair," remarked George R. Averill in the Birmingham Eccentric a while ago. "But why not leave the name 'Clawson' alone?"

The editor of the Eccentric was discussing the offer of a \$100 prize made by Clawson business men for a new name for the community. Said Mr. Averill, "they want it, appears, something like 'Hollandmaritown', or 'Bigger and betterville', or 'Speedburg', or 'Mecury'. The Eccentric editor, however, believes they are making a mistake, and concludes by declaring, "We contend that what this nation needs more than anything else—even the good nickel stogie long campaigned for—is more towns like the staid, dignified and bucolic Farmington."

We of Farmington appreciate Mr. Averill's selecting Farmington as an example of the kind of name this country needs. And though far be it from us to presume to say what this country needs (everybody has been doing it for years), still we agree most heartily with our neighbor. There are altogether too many Grand rivers, Knollwoods, Ridgemonts, Riverdales, and Woodliffes in this country, invented for its own good. And when an older one tires of its name and would exchange it for one of the new models, it's very sad, indeed.

In fact, it has for some time seemed to us one of the major tragedies of existence that Mr. Averill's own town is now known as "Birmingham," rather than by the name which would have made it famous from Maine to California—"Piety Hill."

"INCIDENTALLY, ONE OF those remarks which one remembers for a long time was made in our presence a while ago. Whether or not it was original with the speaker we don't know; but what he said was, 'What this country needs is fewer people telling us what this country needs.'"

A FLOWER FESTIVAL

It is pleasing to know that Farmington is to have a flower festival this summer. Few things that can be undertaken by a community of any size are more enjoyable than an event of this kind.

Our showing may not rival any of the extensive exhibits in Detroit or other larger communities nearby. It will give us a good deal of enjoyment, however, because it will be the work of our own people. May this initial show exceed our expectations and be but the first of many ever-growing events of the same kind.

HELP FOR THE "DEAD-BEAT"

Despite the fact that adjournment is probably not far off, much of the history of Michigan's 1929 legislature is yet to be written. Undoubtedly we are to see an outburst of activity, where heretofore has been little except oratory.

Most bills proposed are merely useless, many are worth-while—but a few are actually harmful. One of the latter is the Garnishment Bill, which would make it necessary for a creditor to obtain a judgment before garnishing funds of a debtor.

Passage of this bill would remove one of the already too few methods of protection creditors have. It would put a premium upon shiftlessness, would multiply the bad debts of business-men throughout the State. Businessmen find it hard enough now to collect bills—why make it even more difficult?

That man is a philosopher who has discovered that none of the dreams of his youth are going to come true and can still be content.

Telephone Directory vs. Encyclopedia

By KING LARDNER

To the Editor:

They seem to be a few people in the United States that still think we weren't justified or something in declaring war on Germany, but I guess these birds would feel different if they stopped to think that it was a German that invented the telephone and if Luovain and the sinking of the Lusitania was a crime, what about the invention of the telephone which comes from the 2 Great words tele, meaning far off, and phone, meaning sound and maybe it is an act of me living in Great Neck which isn't far from the Sound why maybe that is why the telephone service isn't so well you know.

When a man stops to think that the telephones are invented by a German, why can't he help but believe the rest about them for just inventing the gas and etc. but only that but it also shows how s democracy they was when they invented something that nobody but only the leisure class can use because for just, I and you could not never afford it even if we only figured our time but for per he, which nobody gets as little as that now days only the president of Harvard college or a soldier or something. For instance, if I am out here in Great Neck and want to talk to somebody in N. Y. City why it wouldn't only cost me about \$200 to go down there and see them why if I telephoned it would be 30c for the call and 2 days to put it through and if I worked on a S. R. bus it would cost me that would be a total of \$150 for the 2 days that it took for them to put the telephone call through where I could go down and see them and get back in 7 hrs. or some such figure. But in the case of the leisure class it's different as the only real work they halt to do the whole yr. around make out their income tax blanks which only takes 3 months to figure out how they can beat the gov't. and if it was not for the telephone they wouldn't know what to do the rest of their time where as now when they get tired of poker and bridge and etc. and have got a few days left on their hands why as they halt to do to kill a couple of days is try and get somebody on the telephone.

But I don't want my genial readers to think this crabby article means that I don't hold no brief for the telephone service. On the other hand, if it was not for the telephone inventing the telephone why they wouldn't of been so American inventing the telephone directory which is the greatest institution we got left here from a man named Mr. de Voe.

The telephone directory has never been given the credit it deserves and personally I have got 1 regret in life which is that I didn't keep all the telephone directories which was ever gave to me as it would save me from buying a cyclopedia which costs \$20 a case which opposed to a telephone directory that don't cost nothing if you ever get it and has got 8 or 9 times as much as a cyclopedia. Besides that the names in the telephone directory is 90% dead compared to the names in the telephone directory which is only 50% dead when you try and call them up.

I also wished I could bring 4th a modern vol. to prove my assertions, but unfortunately the only telephone books I got in the house is the latest one from Great Neck where you already know the number of the grocery store and the butcher shop and the taxi cab Co. and Mr. Quin who loans you money and also the N. Y. City telephone directory of May 2, 1917, and I suppose if I live here a couple more years I will give you the October book of 1917 and keep me up to date.

So I will halt to prove my point if any by quoting from the N. Y. City telephone directory of May 2, 1917, as follows as they say:

In the first place it says that, useful information can be found on Page 17. So you turn to Page 17 and the first thing that strikes you in the eye is a ad that says we sell artificial limbs that fit. Well, suppose that some morning you was to wake up and have a cravelling for a artificial limb that fit you and you didn't know how to go about it to get one and they was not no telephone directory in the home why, here would you be at? You would halt to call up and ask for information which is another word for practical joke and they would finey give you a firm that sold artificial limbs that didn't come near fitting and you would buy 1 and halt to walk down the st. all out of kilter and people would look at you and make you feel like a fool.

On Page 20 they give you information for telephone users which they don't claim is useful but it says you can call information free of charge and also the Co. wants criticism but it should always be made by telephone, why by the time you reach the party it would be 3 or 4 yrs. later and the management would of changed.

All told, it looks to me like the telephone which was made in Germany was enough excuse for us fighting them where as the telephone directory which was made in America is a work that ought to go down in history like "Huckleberry Finn" or "Casey Jones" or something.

(By the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

How Does Your Garden Grow?



It will grow splendidly, if you take good care of it, using our good Garden Tools.

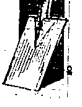
Here are a few items:

Garden Cultivators \$4.50
Wheelbarrows \$4.75
High Grade Hoes \$1.00
Rakes .75c
Spades \$1.15

Bulk Seeds—Package
Seeds—Bulbs

Lee Hardware Co.

Phone 62



Farmington

SUPPOSE—

SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

That's about the only fear of an automobile for the woman of today... and the answer is so simple. Suppose a tire goes flat, you run out of gas, or the car "Just won't run." What then?

If you carry Preferred Insurance with the Michigan Mutual, just call the nearest garage for service... let them do the worrying!... we pay the service charge. All this, PLUS \$5,000 personal accident insurance on the driver, touring and legal service, AT THE COST OF CAR INSURANCE ALONE.

Lawrence R. Taylor

Phone 144

Peoples State Bank

Representing

Michigan Mutual Liability Co.

THE BEST BUILDER

What better food to build a healthy body than pure, fresh MILK, with its abundance of vitamins, its unequalled nourishment?

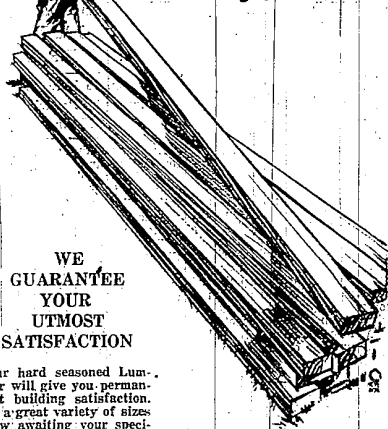
And what better MILK could you choose than that bottled right here, assuring you of absolute purity and high quality—Milk from

Farmington Dairy

Phone 135—Farmington

LUMBER

for every purpose



Our hard seasoned Lumber will give you permanent building satisfaction. In a great variety of sizes now awaiting your specifications.

Farmington Lumber and Coal Co.

Phone 20

Farmington

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

GEO. KUHN

Paper Hanging Done at Reasonable Price—Quick Service
Also a Sample Book—Neat Styles Will Call and Estimate Your Job
P. O. Plymouth, Mich.
R. D. No. 5, at Stark

DR. H. E. BOICE

Physician and Surgeon
Office Phone 307; Res. 132-W
OFFICE HOURS:
2 to 5 p. m.; 7:30 to 8:30 p. m.; Thurs. and Sun. by appointment
Farmington Mich.

Z. R. ASCHENBRENNER, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon
Office Hours: 2:00 to 4:00 p. m.
Evenings Except Sun. and Wed. 7:30 to 9:00
Office Phone 160
Residence Phone 265
Farmington Mich.

Dr. E. J. Chaput

Dentist
18629 Grand River Avenue
Opp. Redford Theatre
Hours:
9 to 12 a. m.; 1:30 to 5:30 p. m.
Phone 318 1 to 3 p. m.
Redford, Mich.

Dental and General

X-Ray Service
DR. G. F. WEAVER
Dentist
Farmington State Savings Bank Bldg.
Phone 170
Office Hours:
9 to 12; 1 to 5 p. m.
Evenings by Appointment

GEORGE FULFORD

Lathing - Plastering - Contracts
Stucco Work
Phone 217
Wells D. Butterfield
Emily M. Butterfield
Butterfield & Butterfield
ARCHITECTS
311 Owen Building
Detroit
Telephone Glendale 8891
Pontiac Studio:
Phone 3687 15 W. Lawrence St.
Garfield 5511
JOY ROAD
UPHOLSTERING SHOP
Upholstering—Repairing
Refinishing
9218 Otsego, Cor. Joy Road
Detroit, Mich.
C. O. TENNEY
Sheet Metal Work of All Kinds
Cor. Byron and Saginaw, near Fourth Gate
Phone Redford 7027-13
YES, FOLKS, I AM BACK
Plumbing and Heating
IF YOU WANT ME
Phone Farmington 301W
Henry Ludeman
MONUMENTS
Direct from manufacturer to Consumer—No Agents
MILFORD GRANITE CO.
Milford
Most of Farmington's Brick Homes have been built by
JOHN R. VIVIER
MASON CONTRACTOR
Phone Redford 164
PHONE REDFORD 2554
John H. Allellia E.
Thompson and Thompson
Chiropractors,
Tues. & Fri. by Appointment
Office Hours:
9:00 to 5:30 p. m. 22011 Grand River

REAL ESTATE

Will Buy Bargains

in

Improved—Vacant—Farms.

OSCAR L. CHANEY

Office at Clarencville
Grand River and Anglin Road
Detroit Office: Glendale 4591

Resident Music

Instructor
MRS. FLORENCE EDGAR
Piano Lessons
246 Oakland Ave., E.
Farmington

Try Enterprise want ads.