

The Farmington Enterprise

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Township Road System Change Being Discussed

Modern Conditions Lead To Consideration Of Single District Idea

A possible change from the present system of management of Township roads in four sections, and making the entire Township one road district, was discussed by members of the Farmington Township Board at its meeting Tuesday evening. The idea is being considered as being possibly more modern than the present system, which has been in use for a quarter of a century.

Within the last few years, the advance of the automobile and the fact that the highway commissioner could easily cover all of the Township roads in a machine in a comparatively short time, is pointed out as making overseers and division of roads into sections less necessary than in the past. In addition, there has been little interest in the election of overseers recently, and often there has been no candidate for the office in particular sections.

The division into sections was established in order to assure each part of the Township its fair share of road improvement work, but this is now viewed by some as hardly necessary. Highway commissioners in the Township have uniformly shown their interest in seeing that all roads have been kept in good shape as far as finances would permit.

The four-section system, which divides the Township practically into quarters, was adopted nearly 25 years ago as an improvement over the pathmaster method under that system, the residents of the Township worked out their road taxes, or hired someone to do it for them. During the time when Harry McCracken, present Supervisor, was in the legislature and Fred M. Warner was Governor, a special act was put through the legislature enabling Farmington Township to adopt the quarter-section plan.

Since throughout the Township are reported in excellent condition.

GIRLS IN SPIRITED BATTLE TO LEAD IN POPULARITY

Three Green Up On Leader, But Are Unable To Take First Place

Three strong contestants in the Farmington American Legion popularity contest drew closer to the leader, June Johnson, during the past week, but they were unable to sufficient to bring them within a thousand votes of Miss Johnson. With the four so closely grouped, however, and the certain heavy sale of tickets on Gala day, any one of the four might easily win the contest.

Mary Ellen Fink gave indications of being perhaps Miss Johnson's closest opponent. Starting far behind in the balloting at first, she has gained steadily each week. This week Miss Fink came within a few votes of reaching third place—this week she went into third standing; easily and is only 70 votes behind Lucille Jacobs, who is second to Miss Johnson.

June Johnson's gain for the past week was 170 votes, Miss Jacobs was 400, Mary Ellen Fink's 630, and Alice Westfall's 220. The standings Wednesday evening were:

June Johnson	10,280
Lucille Jacobs	9,170
Mary Ellen Fink	9,100
Alice Westfall	8,780

The popularity contest is bringing one of the most interesting features of the Gala Day program, and a number of other attractions have already been secured to make the day one of the best ever sponsored by the Legion post.

Among the attractions engaged for entertainment are Marie Correll and Company, including "the strongest lady in the world," the Flagg Duo, a clown and tumbling act, "The Four Cheaters," eight artists, a dancing and leader act, and many others.

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State Takes Title To Grand River Lots, And Who's To Pay The Taxes?

An example of the many problems that arise when a large piece of road construction work is under way is afforded by the Grand River widening project. Farmington Township officials are already facing and those of Farmington City may soon have to consider a puzzling question arising out of the State's acquiring of land for the new highway.

A short time ago, Supervisor Harry McCracken received from the State a notification, to the effect that the State has taken title to certain pieces of property fronting on Grand River, and advising him to take these properties from the tax-roll. This might be easy were it not for the fact that the tax-roll for the coming year was made up and approved by the board of review some time ago. Accordingly valuations have been totaled up with these properties included on the roll, and the amount of levy arrived at in accordance with the needs of the Township.

If the properties now owned by the State are taken from the roll, there will be a shortage of revenue; which, though a very small sum, will still create a difference in the tax figures. On the other hand, an effort to maintain the properties on the roll and collect taxes from the State is also a difficult task.

County officials at Pontiac believe whom Supervisor McCracken put the problem, have disagreed as to the best method of solution.

Although 92 years old, Mrs. McGee suffered no acute illness, death being due to old age. She had been in bed less than a week. Early Saturday afternoon she died for the last time, to her son, Clinton McGee, and shortly after fell asleep. She died without waking again, a little after 3 o'clock Sunday morning.

Three of Mrs. McGee's sons, Thomas of Farmington, Clinton of Pontiac, and Clyde of Chicago, were at the bedside when death came. Her other surviving son, Rev. James McGee of Flint, was summoned from Charlevoix, but was unable to reach in time to see his mother's last day.

Mrs. McGee was born on May 24, 1837, near Belfast, Ireland. Her mother died not long after her birth, and at the age of four, she came with her father to America. After living in Canada for a time, in 1854 she was married to Thomas McGee, a native of Glasgow, Scotland.

Eleven children were born to them, of whom only four sons remain. Two children died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. McGee moved to Greenfield, Wayne County, Mich., in 1856, and three years later came to Farmington. Mr. McGee died 20 years ago, in 1893, at the age of 69.

Services were held at the home of Thomas McGee on Grand River avenue, Farmington, burial taking place in Oakwood Cemetery. Rev. Elmer W. Palmer officiated.

A number of men prominent in County politics and affairs came to Farmington for the funeral, among them Circuit Judges Glenn C. Gillette and Frank L. Doty, Probate Judge Dan McGaffey, County Clerk Burton P. Daugherty, Carl Felton, James Wilson, and James Lynch.

Spencer J. Hedney was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Plans Are Projected For Flower Festival

Early in the season plans were projected for a Flower Festival for Farmington and community. Committees have been working out details and have chosen the second week in September as the date.

A list of competing classes, such as bouquets, single specimens, vases and bowls, will soon be announced. It is the hope that there will be enthusiastic interest in this festival by all the garden lovers of this community.

The festival will be held in the Community Park and in the immediate neighborhood of Farmington.

School To Open In Farmington On September 3

New Courses Added To Curriculum; School Day Lengthened In High School

Farmington Public Schools will open for the year 1929-30 on Tuesday, September 3, according to an announcement by Ralph B. Baker, superintendent of schools. A number of new courses will be added, the school day has been lengthened somewhat, and tuition has been reduced for the benefit of non-resident pupils.

One of the most important additions to the curriculum is the study of biology, which will replace general science and for which new laboratory equipment has been provided.

Economics is a new subject, which will be taught in the 12th grade, following a half-year course, and a required subject for juniors and seniors.

One and one-half years of bookkeeping will be offered instead of two years, as few students have taken the advanced course in the past. Commercial students will be enabled to take commercial English or commercial law for the other half-year if they desire.

Advanced courses in millinery and sewing will be offered for the first time this year, by Miss Hyde. The sewing room will be located in the grades building.

Hours in the high school this year will be from 8:30 a. m. to noon, and from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m. This is an addition of one class period, making eight instead of seven. Lack of sufficient recitation rooms and conflicts in the program have made the change necessary. The addition is regarded as advisable because it permits an extra study period under the supervision of teachers, and also gives the teacher more time to lend individual help.

The grade school will open at 8:45 and closes for noon hour at 11:45; afternoon hours are 1:00 to 3:30 p. m.

The school music activities, including the high school orchestra, will be continued this year. Pupils will enroll from 8:45 to 10:45 on Tuesday morning, September 3. All classes will be held and lessons assigned in the afternoon. A teachers' meeting will be held Tuesday morning from 11 until 12 o'clock.

Text-books will be on sale Tuesday and Wednesday.

Options for this year are as follows: high school, \$100; seventh and eighth grades, \$80; kindergarten to sixth grade, \$60.

The faculty for the coming year has been completed, and is announced by Supt. Baker as follows: Ralph B. Baker, superintendent, A. R. Crawford, principal, mathematics.

Maxwell Shadley, coach and Elton Buehler, 7th grade, Kenneth Bisbee, 6th grade, Lucille Halstead, 4th grade, Doris Greene, 3rd grade, Josephine Roe, 2nd grade, Joan Marie Hump, 1st grade, Joan Wordergen, kindergarten, Winifred Thomas, opportunity room, Rosetti Barbour, school nurse.

New teachers.

INTRUDERS BREAK INTO TWO BUSINESS PLACES

Thieves entered two places of business in this section during the last week-end. Max Smith, of Clarenceville, reported that his store had been entered and 80 cents in pennies taken Saturday night.

On Monday, it was discovered that the "Turn-Back Inn," owned by Mrs. D. Woodruff, on Grand River near Farmington Junction, had been broken into and some keys and a quantity of soft drinks taken. The rear window was broken and a door "jimmied."

Two Brothers Hit By Autos Within A Week

Only a week after his ten-year-old brother, Douglas Stansell living on Grand River avenue in Novi Township, was struck by an automobile, Albert Stansell, 15, was knocked down by a large sedan Monday. He suffered a broken ankle.

Witnesses said the boy jumped from the back of a truck into the path of the sedan. His younger brother ran in front of the car which hit him a week ago, but was unhurt. Neither driver was held.

H. Czenkusch Dies At Walled Lake

Farmington Men To Be Pallbearers For Walled Lake Resident, Well-Known Here

Farmington citizens will be among the pallbearers Saturday afternoon for Herman Czenkusch, of Walled Lake, well-known throughout this section, who died at his home Wednesday morning after an illness of several months.

Mr. Czenkusch was 64 years old. Mr. Czenkusch, who owned Conaqua Shore amusement park, which he in recent years had leased to the present operators, moved to Walled Lake 16 years ago from Detroit, after having retired from his work as a painter. He had been in ill-health for a long time.

Two children survive, a daughter, Mrs. Otelia Czenkusch, and a son, Otto Czenkusch, both of Detroit. Mrs. Czenkusch died about 15 years ago.

Mr. Czenkusch was born in Germany. Pallbearers at the services Saturday will be Judge John J. Schult, John Fitzpatrick, and John Landau of Farmington, and three Detroit friends, Messrs. Meide, Goetz and Stelling. Rev. Otto F. Detroit will officiate. Services will be at 2 o'clock at the residence. Burial will be in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Bedford.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CONSIDERED FOR TRAFFIC GUIDES

Use Of Seniors And Juniors Favored At Commission Meeting

Selection of members of the senior or junior classes of Farmington High School as traffic guides to provide safety for school children crossing Grand River avenue is expected to be favored by members of the Farmington City Commission at its meeting Monday evening, when Howard M. Warner, chairman of the citizens-commissioners safety committee made a report.

Mr. Warner said that the committee had experienced difficulty in arriving at a solution of the problem, but that the members had agreed on the probable benefit to be derived from patrolling of Grand River by County motorcycle officers each day.

The chief difficulty suggested (Continued on page five)

New Petition Is Prepared For The Farmington Drain

Question Is Raised As To Whether City Might Better Build Its Own System

Blanks for a new petition to be circulated for the Farmington Drain, preparations for which were halted some months ago while the Oakland County Drain Commission awaited the outcome of a court battle on the Southfield drain project, are in Farmington, having been sent this week by Arthur Spencer, County Drain Commissioner. Circulation of the petitions have not yet been started however.

The new development is the result of successful circumventing of the problem which developed over the Southfield drain. Opponents of that work had obtained an injunction against the County proceeding further, on the ground that the Drain Commissioner had no authority to construct a closed sewer.

New Law Passed

While the case was awaiting decision by the Supreme Court, it was decided that it would be better to sponsor a new law definitely conferring the debated power upon county drain commissioners. The law was passed and becomes effective September 1st.

The original petition, carrying more than the required signatures, is in the Drain Commissioner's possession, but Commissioner Spencer appeared to hold the opinion that a new petition, filed after September 1, would eliminate all possibility of further trouble. Accordingly, new petition forms were prepared and were mailed to Dr. De Vere Fleming, who circulated the original petitions.

City System Mentioned

The new petition was discussed by members of the Farmington City Commission Monday evening. Howard Warner, who attended the meeting and took part in the discussion, suggested that it might be well to first investigate the whole matter thoroughly and see whether the benefit to the City would justify the expense involved. It might be cheaper, he suggested, for the City to build its own sewer system, instead of trying-in with the County drainage project.

Commissioner Carl Hogle expressed the opinion that the County, with its large engineering staff and equipment, and its familiarity with such work, could provide the needed sewer system for the City much more economically than could the City itself, especially as it would be part of a large project.

Mr. Fleming said Wednesday that he did not know whether he would take up the work of circulating the new petition, and when he might be able to start if he decided to do so.

Two buildings in Clarenceville in the path of wider Grand River, just west of the Eight-Mile road intersection, are being torn down in preparation for road construction. Most of the razing has been done and the remainder will be completed in a few days. One was for seven years occupied as a store by George Nacker.

'Whole Town' Answers Midnight Fire Alarm - Tire Carrier Saved

It was late Friday night—in fact, it was almost Saturday morning.

"Blow the fire-whistle," as facetious story-tellers might put it. And stalwart Farmington men jumped into their clothes as the siren screamed.

One citizen, at least, drew on his trousers over his night-attire. And ran downtown and climbed aboard the fire-truck, bound for Grand River and Eight-Mile roads.

There they found—But to tell the story in strict chronological order, the automobile had caught fire a full hour before. Bedford's department had refused to respond to a call, and finally, after sixty minutes, an alarm was sounded in Farmington.

Thus they found—that was once an automobile, burned to the very tire-carrier in the rear. The spare-tire was all that remained to burn. So the Farmington firemen tipped that off and throwing it on the pavement, stamped out the flames.

And the whole town—or the "whole blank town"—as the man who pulled his trousers over—described it, the whole town went disgustingly back to bed.

The car, which was driven by Theodore Allback, had been travelling west on Grand River avenue and struck the guard-rail on the north side of the road. It turned over and burst into flames immediately. Allback was slightly injured about the forehead.