

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 33.

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1931.

5c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

## Township Named In Tax Appeal Made To State

Review Of Figures Asked Of Tax Commission; Unfairness Charged

Farmington Township is one of the governing units of Oakland County whose valuation is complained of in the appeal to the State Tax Commission for a review of the equalized valuation set upon the County by the board of supervisors. The appeal, which is the third in as many years was made by the city of Pontiac, was filed with the county clerk, B. P. Daugherty, July 20. Mayor Arthur Lamb of Farmington is chairman of the equalization committee whose report was adopted by the board. The Township's valuation last year was \$8,242,987.

**Increases Result**  
In the two previous years, huge increases have been given the entire county as a result of the appeals. Out-county supervisors voted solidly against a proposal by Pontiac City assessor Charles Harmon that the board increase the County's valuation and lessen the percentage of State tax to be paid by Pontiac. They have repeatedly charged that Pontiac's supervisors have ignored the interests of the county at large in attempts to win selfish privileges for the city.

Harmon asserts that Pontiac's valuation is based on its cash value and that the townships of Waterford, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield, Royal Oak, besides Farmington are assessed unfairly low. He claims the cities of Ferndale, Royal Oak and Pleasant Ridge are also unfairly assessed, as to their cash value.

Unfair treatment and discrimination is charged in the appeal and Pontiac asks the commission to step in and adjust the figures.

Farmington Township's valuation this year is set at \$7,526,480.

## OWNERS OF DOGS WARNED BY CHIEF TO EXERCISE CARE

State Law May Prosecute If Keepers Fail To Control Them

Dog owners and keepers are asked to keep their dogs under control, Chief of Police Doyle says in a warning issued Wednesday. Two persons were attacked in Farmington last week, although they were not bitten. In accordance with the state law, those who do not exercise this care, may be prosecuted, Chief Doyle advises.

Chief Doyle's warning is as follows: "During the hot weather months there is always more danger in the control of dogs. There have been numerous complaints of owners allowing their dogs to run at large, some allowing their dogs to attack people on the sidewalk."

"A few owners and keepers are under the impression that if the dog is licensed, it is entitled to the sidewalks or vacant property, to run at large as it wishes."

"Owners and keepers of dogs are subject to civil suit in cases of this kind as the state law states specifically 'that dogs must at all times be in the immediate control of owner or keeper.'"

"Complaints may be signed in court and the dog ordered killed in these cases."

"Your co-operation is kindly asked by all in avoiding any further attacks on innocent people on the streets of the city."

## DANCE

Dance at Holker's Hall, 12 mile at Orchard Lake road, Saturday July 25. Under new management, Adams-Owen. Dancing, 9 to 2. Men, 50c; Ladies free. Good music. All welcome. adv.

Enterprise liners bring results.

## Permanent Receiver



The receivership of Howard C. Knickerbocker, who has been in temporary charge of Farmington State Savings Bank, was made permanent by appointment in Circuit Court at Pontiac Monday.

## Band To Begin Concert Series

Concerts To Follow Movies Expected To Draw Large Crowds

The first of a series of Saturday night band concerts will be given by the Farmington High School band at 7:45 o'clock, Saturday, in the town park. Mr. E. C. Eaton, director of the band, has been holding rehearsals for the band three nights a week at the school, and will have about thirty musicians ready to play. The concerts will continue weekly for the remainder of the summer. Moving pictures under the sponsorship of the Exchange Club will follow the band concert. Last year, when the concerts were offered, they proved popular with the crowds, according to Mr. Eaton. Approximately 200 persons attended each, under favorable weather conditions, he said.

The band uniforms have been cleaned and will be worn for the concerts. Next year the band will again participate in the state contests that will be held.

Saturday night band concert program is as follows:

Okay, march, Coate.  
King Lear, overture, Hazel Buglars, Bennett.  
El Capitán, march, Sousa.  
On the Volga, Russian overture, Alkimenko.  
American Eagle, march Boehme.  
Coon's Holiday, Douglas.  
Dawn Break, Douglas.  
Jolly aers, Liscombe.

## DRINKING WATER FATAL

A rat that tried "poaching" on a dog's domain, to the extent of drinking from the dog's water pan, met swift retribution Thursday afternoon. It happened at the home of John Fitzpatrick on Valley View avenue. Mr. Fitzpatrick was home and he had a gun. The shot was a "bullseye" and the rat was an unusually large one.

## Patient Officer Waits One Year To Make "Catch"; Fine Withheld

It pays to be patient.

At any rate, Marie Pettibone, Farmington deputy, thinks so. One whole year he waited to serve a traffic violator with a warrant, and Wednesday July 22, Pettibone served the papers which should have been given out July 19, 1930.

But Abraham Shusterman, of 17910 Brush street, Detroit, probably had some notion that the police were looking for him, and he "hibernated" for a year. Pettibone, time and again, visited his home, found his wife and six children there, but no Abraham. "He's away for the week," "he doesn't live here," "he left town,"—these and many other replies were the deputy's lot every time he visited the Shustermans.

Judge John J. Schulte was lenient with Abraham in traffic court Wednesday. He couldn't

## Township-County Suit Over Back Taxes Up Soon

Withholding Of Delinquent Tax Money To Be Argued Before Circuit Court

Hearing will be held soon at Circuit Court in Pontiac of a case in which Farmington Township and nine others are suing Oakland County to obtain thousands of dollars in tax money, collected by the County Treasurer, but withheld by him because the Townships owe money to the County. The outcome of the suit may have an important effect, not only upon the Township's financial condition during the coming year, but also upon every school child. If the Townships win the suit, Farmington Township will undoubtedly be enabled to do much toward paying off indebtedness to the school districts, which will turn be greatly aided in conducting school next year. A number of the districts are facing a serious financial situation with the opening of school in September.

**Have \$15,000 Due**  
Farmington Township has nearly \$15,000 due. This amount in delinquent taxes has been paid in to the County Treasurer exclusive of school funds and State and County taxes, on property in the township. However, the Treasurer claims the right to withhold the Township delinquent tax money, because of the fact that a considerable amount of Covert Road tax money is still due the County from the Township.

The suit of the ten Townships is brought in the name of Waterford township. Donald Porritt and Clark Adams, attorneys for the townships, expect a hearing within the coming week. Township officials will probably be called to testify, but most of the hearing will consist of argument by the attorneys.

## Economy Move Made

A further economy move was made by the Farmington Township Board Tuesday evening, when it was voted to adopt a resolution to discontinue all road lighting in the Township until the financial condition of the Township is improved. Some time ago the lighting was cut in half on all roads except Grand River, alternate lights being cut off on the highways. This reduced the current consumption nearly one-half, to about \$700 a month.

The step was taken by the Board Tuesday evening and described as a temporary one, with the anticipation that the lights will be turned on again when the tax situation is better. Time has been extended to the Township on its present bill, and the Board is looking forward to cutting down this indebtedness and wiping it out, rather than increasing it.

Mrs. James Conroy of Fremont, Ohio spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. John Delling and all attended the reunion Saturday.

## Old City Landmark Torn Down; Had Housed Well Known Citizens

House On Farmington Road Was 60 Years Old; Built Of "The Best"

One of the old landmarks of Farmington has been destroyed within the last few days. The dwelling house on Farmington road, the property of the old D. U. R. system has been torn down. It was built about 1871 by William Hendryx on land that he bought of Abraham Lapham owner at the time of what is now known as the Warner farm. Mr. Hendryx wished the best material to be used in the construction of this dwelling. And with this end in view, he bought most of the timber on the stump and had it cut and sawed according to his direction and trucked to the place where it

was used. At his death the property came into possession of his daughter Mrs. Lydia Newman, who sold it to Theodore Grace for \$1,400.00. Mr. Grace was a leading merchant of the town for a number of years and did a thriving business as proprietor of a general store in the building now occupied by Fred Pauline.

**Was Show Place**  
At the corner of Farmington road and Grand River ave, the old house in those years was one of the show places of the town and here it was that Mr. and Mrs. Grace raised their family and their son Sergius Grace at the present time one of the great men in the electrical world was born.

**Property Is Sold**  
After a period of years Mr. Grace sold the property and moved to Detroit. Since then well known citizens in Farmington including Job Francis and wife, C. W. Botsford and wife, and others have lived within its walls and had their home there. Have seen the light and shadows of life come and go, and have passed on. And now the old house has answered the call has gone the way of all created things and will soon be a memory only to a few people whose number is fast diminishing.

"Not a board in this building but its memories has got. And not a nail in the old floor touches but a tender spot."—Long Ago

## District Ties Up Township Funds

German School District Garnishes Account In Bank; Hearing Next Week

Farmington Township has been made the object of a garnishment suit by one of the school districts in the Township. Part of the bank account of the Township at Peoples State Bank, Farmington, was tied up by action of the German School District, No. 1 Fractional, acting on a judgment obtained recently.

The School districts garnished the Township for \$687, the amount of the judgment, which is based on 1929 taxes collected by the Township but not distributed to the schools. An additional \$200 was included for court costs.

**Had \$1,200**  
The Township had about \$1,200 in the bank at the time of the serving of the garnishment, according to Treasurer Mark Bachelor.

A hearing on the proceedings will be held next Thursday, July 30, in Circuit Court at Pontiac. Township officials hope for squashing of the garnishment proceedings and release of the Township's money.

It is expected that the matter will come before Judge Frank Covert, it having been referred to him by Judge Frank L. Dely. The suit was begun last April by the School District, whose board decided against joining with nine others in a legal action against the Township.

## INSTALL SIGNALS AT NORTHWESTERN TO CHECK MISHAPS

Signal lighting equipment ordered by the State Highway Department for the crossing at Northwestern Highway and Telegraph road was installed Tuesday. The department reports, Traffic lights at the intersection of Lashier, Ten Mile, Twelve Mile, Thirteen mile road with Northwestern highway have also been installed. No fatalities and only a few minor crashes have occurred on the Highway since the lights have been installed, Deputy Sheriff Joseph DeVriendt reports.

Try an Enterprise Liner.

## Made Unemployment Committee Leader

Rev. Frank D. Adams, pastor of the Universalist churches of Farmington and Detroit, has taken up his duties as chairman of the Detroit Mayor's Unemployment Committee, having been named to head the committee a few days ago, by Mayor Frank Murphy.

Rev. Adams had been vice-chairman of the committee. His predecessor as chairman was G. Hall Roosevelt, who was a speaker at an Exchange Club meeting in Farmington some months ago.

## CAR TURNS OVER 3 TIMES; 2 HURT AT THE "CUT-OFF"

Leaves Road At Grand River "Cut-Off"; One Suffers Possible Fracture

Traveling at a fast rate of speed, a car with its driver unfamiliar to the lines of traffic at the "cut-off" on Grand River near Middlebelt road, left the road turning over three times, and throwing two of its occupants out of the rumble seat. Both were young girls and suffered severe injuries.

Edna Mikko, 17 years old, of 1676 Pasadena avenue, Highland Park was most severely hurt, with a dislocated left elbow and a possible skull fracture. She was still in Redford Branch of receiving hospital where she was taken after the accident being held for observation, Thursday. The other girl, Helma Tulpulis, 22, of 12950 Trumbull avenue, Detroit, suffered contusions and lacerations of the scalp. She was dismissed from the hospital at Redford Tuesday night.

The driver, Clarence Collins, 4714 Commonwealth, Detroit and two other occupants were uninjured. Deputies Marie Pettibone, William Tamm and Joseph DeVriendt reported the accident.

## ANNUAL REUNION OF ANGLING ROAD SCHOOL IS HELD

Mrs. Conroy Elected President; Mrs. Olson, Secretary

The seventh annual reunion of the Angling road school was held with Karl N. Tibbitts as host Saturday July 18, at Rosemond Hills woods.

About 65 teachers, pupils and friends were present for the occasion.

A pot luck luncheon was served. At the business session which followed, Mrs. Sadie Conroy of Fremont, Ohio, was elected president; and Mrs. Bessie Olson of Birmingham, secretary and treasurer.

A vote of thanks was given Mr. Tibbitts for making possible the reunion. After the adjournment of the business session the remainder of the day was given over to reading, singing, dancing, reminiscences and renewing friendships of the old school days.

## Improvement In City Books Urged By New Auditors

City Commission Receives Report With Complete Check-up Of Finances

Recommendation that an improved system of books be installed by the City of Farmington was made to the City Commission Monday evening by a new firm of auditors who presented a detailed report of City finances.

The auditors reported that although City officials have maintained the books as well as possible, the system is inadequate for a municipality the size of Farmington. Further, they reported, statistical work previously was such that the City's books are "in a deplorable condition," and "completely out of balance."

City officials had been dissatisfied for some time, particular complaint having been that reports were not easily understandable.

**Depreciation Set Low**  
The entry of some items on the books was characterized as "ridiculous," as for instance, the item of equipment depreciation. Depreciation on the City's equipment for the past four years the auditors reported, was shown as \$3,646.32. This, in the auditors' opinion, is "ridiculously low," and they multiplied it approximately six times in their report, bringing the figures to \$21,719.43, which is based on "the usual rates of depreciation."

Segregation of departments was recommended by the auditors who presented a report on the cost and income of the water department, the first time this information has been obtained. The auditors reported that the water department income for the past nine months was \$7,260, with an expense of \$9,124.66, leaving an operating loss of about \$1,800.

**Some Loss, Some Gain**  
The auditors found items both favorable and unfavorable to the City's financial condition. A truck purchased in November, 1929, had not been entered on the books, and the auditors said they would have known the City owns such a vehicle, had they not seen it near the City building and inquired. On the other hand, the City's old fire truck, sold about a year ago, was still being carried on the books at \$1,000 and the police motorcycle, also sold, was carried. A fire ladder worth \$250 had not been entered.

The audit was made by Charles K. Harris Co. of Detroit. Mr. Harris and John P. Leyman, who did most of the work on the audit, attended the Commission meeting to present the report. They expressed thanks to City Clerk N. H. Power and Commissioner Emory Hatton for valuable aid in the auditing work.

The auditors reported that no audit had been made for nine months, although it was understood that the auditing was to have been done every six months. City officials expressed themselves as highly pleased with the report, a copy which was provided to each Commissioner as well as City Clerk Power.

## Uniform Audit

Mr. Harris stated that municipal officials may look forward to improvement in all city audits henceforth. The State legislature at its last session passed an act requiring a uniform audit for cities.

The form for this audit has not yet been prepared, however, according to Mr. Harris.

## Farmington Bank Made Sole City Depository

Peoples State Bank of Farmington was made the sole depository for the City of Farmington funds Monday evening.

The City Commission, at its regular meeting, passed a motion designating the Farmington banking house as the place in which all City funds are to be deposited henceforth.