


The Farmington Enterprise

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Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, June 2, 1932

Editorials

The Last Sordid Chapter

It is with mingled feelings that one reflects upon the conclusion of the one-man grand jury investigation into the closing of eleven Oakland County Banks, and reads over the report on the County's largest bank, which brought the inquiry to an end.

For the people of Farmington there can be nothing other than deep satisfaction that ours was one of only three communities in the County whose financial institutions came through the most rigid investigation in the County's history without a blemish, but instead earned high praise for the loyalty of those who, connected with the bank, stayed with it to the end. In no other institution in the County did the grand jury find anything like the loyalty and steadfastness that characterized the Farmington State Savings Bank.

So too the people of Milford and Hazel Park may feel that however distressing were the closings of their banks, there was at least no dishonesty or disgrace.

What of the last report? No worse, perhaps than some of the others that were marked by severe condemnation, yet infinitely more important if only because the bank was the largest in Oakland County. It not only stood foremost in size and prestige, so much so that the prophecy of one man standing in front of the bank on the first day of the run, "If this bank goes, every bank in the County will go," has almost proven true. When it closed the desperate struggle of most banks in the smaller towns became hopeless. Three closings in this area followed shortly, the people's shaken confidence destroyed by the closing of the Pontiac bank. The men connected with that institution were regarded as pillars of the economic, financial, political and even of the social life of the County. It was a very cornerstone of the County's structure, and now it is revealed that within that cornerstone was rottenness and hollowness made by those who, like creatures in the dark, bored from within—the very men who were looked upon as lending the institution much of its firmness, strength and standing. It is too stunning a revelation, too galling a disillusionment, to be passed by without notice, as indeed it has not been brought forth without engendering a deep bitterness that will linger.

What shall be said of those who have proven so unworthy of their high trust? Must it always be that the higher we raise men in influence and position, the less we can rely upon their faithfulness—and the farther they get from simple honesty? What shall be said of men who take the hard-earned savings of a lifetime from those who rely upon them, and scatter those savings like chaff in the wind? The scrimpings and scrapings of how many depositors went to provide for that one "inside" borrower the staggering total loans of two hundred and eighty-nine thousand dollars?

But there was more than one betrayal. There was another, less far-reaching, but still more treacherous. Connected with the bank, on the board of directors, were many honest men, men still worthy of confidence and who may hold their heads high even today, wherever they may go. Trusting to their fellows, and possibly not even able to check those in control had they been aware of the goings-on, these honest men have found in their life-long friends and close associates traitors, who have made them unwilling companions in a cruel injustice to thousands of people of Oakland County. What a bitter dose it must have been and always must be for these upright men, victims as were the depositors.

The epidemic of bank closings has brought forth all kinds of ideas, and it is said that "we need a new banking system." Possibly we do. But a new system alone will not solve any problem, when the fault is one of men. The last report of the grand jury inquiry has proven that.

The long series of investigations has ended, the last sordid chapter has been written. Once more the people of Oakland County are indebted to the director of the inquiry whose fearlessness and rigorous concept of his duty has again called forth praise from every side, who refused to be deterred by any influence or the most powerful pressure brought to bear, from going forward in his investigation with the forthrightness and vigor which has been so frequently commented upon. Judge Doty has won the everlasting gratitude of the people of the County, and his name will go down as a synonym for unwavering devotion to duty, whenever called. We have had a bad mess and like every other County, we shall undoubtedly have in the future others of different kinds to uncover and clean up, but so long as there remain at our service officials of the caliber of Judge Doty, we can still feel that things are not entirely hopeless, that all is not irredeemably lost.

Honor For A "Home-Town Boy"

Farmington can claim many men and women who have gone forth into the world and won high distinction—many who qualify for the somewhat humorous but nevertheless descriptive term, "the home-town boy who made good."

Among the very foremost of these is Sergius P. Grace of New York, born in a house on Farmington Road, now famous through his work with the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York. Farmington sees him but seldom, and then only for a few minutes, as he slips into town on an occasional visit to relatives and quickly out again. He occasionally spends a day or two in Detroit, but his time there is always busily occupied with reporters, for city editors know that Mr. Grace always has something for them, some modern engineering development that the newspapermen are eager to seize upon

as "good copy," and disclose to a wondering world.

Mr. Grace is to receive an honorary degree at Notre Dame University, South Bend, this month. Since he will be in this part of the country, he will undoubtedly come to Detroit, and perhaps to Farmington. This time he ought to stay longer than just a few minutes. Would it not be a good idea for Farmington to welcome him back again to his "old home town," to speak in advance for an evening of his time, so that we can make his acquaintance again and perhaps by some modest community gathering express Farmington's pride in its famous son? Friends say Mr. Grace still looks back with fondness upon the town of his boyhood days, and if we should invite him, it is possible that he would be glad to come, and maybe he would confide to us some special secret, just discovered at the Laboratories, as to what our great grand-children will be doing in 2032.

"If"

If I could frame a pretty verse,
Or mould a thought that's sweet,
If I could lighten someone's load
Or quicken some heart's beat.

If I could paint a wooded hill
That's dressed in fall array,
Of yellows, greens and reds and browns
A riotous display.

If I could take a babbling brook
And make you hear it's tune,
As merrily it dances on,
Amid the summer bloom.

If I could take the first spring flower
That peeps from snow cold earth,
And make you see that in your thoughts
You too should seek rebirth.

If I could take the winter's snows
And see not there the cold,
But just a blanket clean to guard
That which the earth does hold.

If as the seasons come and go,
I could but see the joy
That waits me there and overlook
The things that do annoy.

I'd live this life and joy'd be mine,
Naught would I count as loss.
I'd find the gold where'er I go
And I'd pass by the dross.

Royal Oak, Mich.
HARRY J. MERRITT

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Rev. James A. Callahan, Pastor
Sunday masses at 8:30 a. m. and 11 a. m.
Daily mass at 8:00.

West Point Park Presbyterian Church
Rev. John Adams, Pastor
1213 Grand Blvd., Redford
10:30 Sunday School.
11:30 Morning worship.

Baptist Church
Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor
10:10 Prayer Meeting.
10:30 Morning Service and Communion.
11:45 Bible School.
6:30 Young People's Meetings.
7:30 Union Service at the Methodist church. Rev. Floyd C. Johnson preaching the baccalaureate sermon for the senior class of our High School.
Wednesday night we will discuss the doctrine of Seventh Day Adventism. Everyone is invited.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clareneville
(At Switzer Road)
Rev. Paul Gruppen, Pastor
10:30 Divine Service.
The first and third Sundays of the month the services are conducted in the German language. All others are English.

Methodist Church
Rev. F. C. Johnson, Minister
Children's Day will be observed Sunday morning at 10:30. Rev. F. C. Johnson will preach a short sermon on the theme "A Child's Religion." The choir of children from our Children's Home will furnish the special music at this service. There will also be baptismal service and reception of members. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.
At 7:30 the High School Baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Rev. F. C. Johnson. The High School Glee Club will also sing at this service.
The Young People's Club will discontinue its meetings for the summer.
Tuesday afternoon the W. H. M. S. Auxiliary will meet at the home of Mrs. J. E. Schneider for the annual election of officers. All members are urged to be present.
Thursday the Golden Rule Circle of the Aid will meet with Mrs. Eckler at the usual time.
We also invite you to attend our mid-week prayer services each Wednesday evening at 7:30.

Evangelical Church

Sunday School 10:15 a. m.
Evening service, 7:30.
Oscar C. Lanbengayer will preach on the "Branches on the Living Vine."

FARMINGTON ACRES

Mrs. H. A. McIntyre
Mrs. John Jahtovsky returned home Tuesday from Middlefield, Ohio where she was called by the illness of her cousin.
Mrs. Harold Billig, and son, Angus and Miss Gertrude McIntyre visited Mrs. Christopher Fensom in Detroit, Thursday.
Mrs. Charles Damon and Mrs. Frank Crandall attended the Royal Neighbors of America Convention at the Hotel Detroit in Detroit, Wednesday.
Mrs. John Hebek and daughter, Betty visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oczlak in Detroit, Tuesday.
Mrs. Gladys Blowvelt and son, Leroy of Detroit spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Sherwood.
Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Hofmann and sons, Walter and Ervin were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Koontz of Detroit, Monday.
Mrs. Jantovsky, Mr. and Mrs. John Addison and children of Detroit, spent the week end with their son and brother, John Jantovsky and family of Edwards avenue.
Miss Virginia Seebaldt spent the week end at Walled Lake with relatives.
Mrs. Frank Crandall and Mrs. Charles Damon attended the Wenona Club, card party in Detroit Friday.
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. McIntyre and children were Redford callers Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. John Hebek and daughters attended Holy Communion in Detroit Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stowell of Pontiac and family called on Mr. and Mrs. B. G. McIntyre Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Tilman and daughter, Betty were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Koontz and children in Detroit, Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. Ryel of Clareneville, called on Mr. and Mrs. H. A. McIntyre Sunday evening.
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sherwood and daughter, Lola May spent Decoration Day with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Sherwood.
Mrs. Charles Willard visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Damon Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. John Hebek sponsored the confirmation of Florence and John Jantovsky Jr., at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington Monday.

Send in your news items.

Unusual Restriction

City ordinances limiting height of office buildings are commensurate these days, but Honolulu has an unusual rule; grass huts, used by business firms to capture the old-time native atmosphere, must not exceed 600 square feet in area.

Dr. Joseph W. Norton
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
GENERAL PRACTICE
33200 Grand River Avenue
Farmington
TELEPHONE 404

Send in your news items.



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