

Dismissal Is Asked On 2d Clark Charge

FARMINGTON, Farmington Township physician charged with the death of his former office manager, Hannah Bowerbank, is asking dismissal of manslaughter charges against Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former-

filed by defense attorney James E. Wells and will be decided by Recorder's Judge Frank C. Schomanske.

If dismissal is denied, Dr. Clark will stand trial on the second manslaughter charge beginning July 6 in Recorder's Court. He presently is serving a three-to-10 year sentence in Jackson State Prison for a manslaughter conviction in the death of Mrs. Grace Neil, a former office manager who succeeded Mrs. Bowerbank.

WELLS EXPLAINS the dismissal motion is based on a Michigan law which protects the rights of a prisoner who is charged with a crime while imprisoned.

Wells says the law requires that in any case involving a prisoner, time shall be given to the corrections commission of his intent to bring action and within 180 days of that notice must bring the case to trial.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office has never delivered a notice to the corrections commission, Wells maintains, and has yet to issue a warrant against Clark.

The doctor was transferred from Jackson Prison to Wayne County Jail on a writ of habeas corpus.

The intent of the 180-day rule, Wells says, is to avoid cumulative sentences because a prisoner has the right to serve sentences concurrently.

CLARK HAS been in jail for three years now on the conviction for the death of Mrs. Neil of Livonia.

The law insists if a prosecutor has information about a prisoner and desires a warrant, Wells adds, he must seek a trial within a reasonable period of time.

"Clark has been in jail for three years now, and three years ago the prosecution had all the information they have today except for information obtained from the autopsy of Mrs. Bowerbank done after the body was exhumed in November of 1967."

In November of 1967, he

continues, the Detroit Police Department had completed its investigation but let the prosecution sit idly without action being taken until a year later.

In November of 1968, an appeal was before the state medical examiners to revoke Clark's medical license because of his conviction and, at this point, Mrs. Bowerbank's body was exhumed, Wells adds.

"But, even then, the prosecution waited two more years until November of 1970 to bring the charges, and now all the key witnesses are gone."

A key missing witness, Wells says, is a Mrs. Mattie Smith, who was housekeeper for Mrs. Bowerbank at the time she died. Mrs. Smith would be able to testify if Clark was at Mrs. Bowerbank's home the day she died, Wells concludes, but the prosecution has been unable to locate her.

WELLS HAS asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal on Clark's conviction for Mrs. Neil's death and that request will be considered in the high court's October term.

Chances of the court accepting the appeal are dim, admits Wells, because it hears only about three per cent each year of the appeals made.

One of the keys in the U.S. appeal, Wells says, is that evidence has been destroyed which has hampered Clark's chances to successfully appeal that conviction which has now gone through the Michigan Court of Appeals with the conviction being upheld.

Wells says the Farmington Township Police admit they have lost the patient records of Mrs. Neil and adds the loss has prejudiced Clark's chance to obtain a reversal of the conviction.

On the basis of deliberate suppression of evidence, Wells concludes, the U.S. Supreme Court could simply direct Clark's release without formally hearing the appeal.



PATIO KING — Fred Thompson of Farmington, assistant vice president of the National Bank of Detroit, was precise in adding seasoning to his "Bonus Burgers" recipe as he participated in the cook-off for King of the Patio honors. His wife, Joan, says he cooks about twice weekly at his township home on Quaker Valley Rd. The cook-off is sponsored by Detroit Edison Co. and this year Detroit firemen took first and second prizes.

local news

By MARIE LONG GR 4-3114


I AM USING this space to thank all the wonderful friends I have for being so thoughtful to me and my family at the loss of my husband, "Bert," as he was known to many.

The neighbors, all the clubs we were members of, his Masonic brothers, the Thayer Funeral Home and many others were so considerate and kind. My children's neighbors so generously responded and my many friends in the block made cakes, casseroles, homemade bread, Jello and gave so many beautiful floral tributes.

Thanks to the office staff at the Farmington Enterprise & Observer for their lovely plant and the Senior Drop-In Center for their lovely plant and the dozens of cards from all the Farmingtonites. After 17 years with the Enterprise & Observer, I have certainly

amassed a wonderful group of dear friends. Thanks so much. Please keep the news coming if you wish to keep the column going.

Sophia Repokis of Tuck, Farmington, has returned from a trip to Lake Tahoe in the High Sierras in Nevada. The visit to the old stamping grounds of the Washoe Indians was arranged by the Nomads, Inc., a flying club of southeastern Michigan area.



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A class reunion is in the planning stages for the Farmington Senior High Class of 1922.

To plan for the coming 50th anniversary - Dallas - Harger, president of the Class of '22, is attempting to locate Donna Bassett and Dorothy Miller.

Anyone with information which would help in this search may contact the FHS office or write Harger at 1 N. Fremont St., Rockford, Mich.



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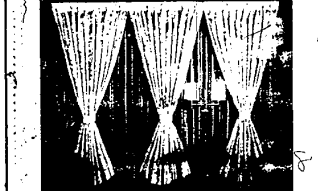
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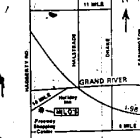
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Farmington Calendar

News items for the Farmington Community Calendar should be type-written, double-spaced, and contain the type of event, time, date and place. Mail at least one week in advance of the event to the Farmington Community Calendar, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

On the next two Tuesdays, the Farmington Community Concert Band will present free one-hour concerts at two different elementary schools. On Tuesday, July 6, the band will be at Kentbrook Elementary and at Fairview Elementary on July 13. Each concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be moved inside to the gym in case of rain.

SUPERVISING TEACHERS

Tuesday, July 6, at 1 p.m. in Room 102 of Pierce Junior High at 4435 Hatcher Rd., Drayton Plains, a three-week course will begin on the "Supervision of Student Teachers" taught by Dr. James Davidson, coordinator of student teachers for Central Michigan University. The location of the course has been changed from Waterford Township High School.

SUMMER BAND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, July 7, a special band and orchestra program for senior high students will get underway at Farmington Senior High and on until Aug. 19. The band will meet weekly on Wednesdays and the orchestra on Thursdays in the FHS auditorium, both from 7:30-9 p.m. Rehearsals will emphasize sight reading of band and orchestra literature and encourage rehearsal technique.

WORLD WAR I VETERANS

Thursday, July 8, at 1 p.m. the Farmington Barracks of World War I Veterans will meet in the American Legion Hall at Grand River and Lakeside. The band will be served followed by a business meeting at 2 p.m. All WWI veterans are welcome to join the fellowship. Regular meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

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