

# Clark Loses Dismissal Request

**the Farmington Enterprise & Observer**

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**FARMINGTON**  
A bid for dismissal of first degree murder charges made against Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington Township physician, was rejected Wednesday by Detroit Recorder's Court.

The plea for dismissal, made by defense attorney James E. Wells of Southfield, was made on the basis that Clark's rights as a prisoner had been violated.

Recorder's Judge Donald S. Leonard, former director of the Michigan State Police and former Detroit Police Commissioner, rejected the dismissal request stating police had used ample speed

in investigating and issuing the charge.

**CLARK IS NOW** serving a 3-10 year manslaughter sentence in Jackson State Prison for the November 1967 death of Grace Neil of Livonia, a former nurse and office manager for Clark.

Last year, the Wayne County prosecutor charged Clark with manslaughter in the March 1967 death of Mrs. Hannah Bowerbank of Detroit, also a former office manager for Clark who succeeded Mrs. Neil.

Clark was transferred from Jackson to Wayne County Jail to stand a pre-trial examination. At examination level, Recorder's Judge James McNally III asked that the manslaughter charge be dropped and Clark be tried for first degree murder.

Avery Weisswasser, assistant prosecutor assigned to the case, responded to McNally's suggestion and changed the charge to first degree murder.

**THE TRIAL** will begin Friday, July 16, in Recorder's Court.

Wells says the first week will probably be devoted to selection of juror members. Jury selection will be complicated, he adds, because of the widespread publicity given the charges against Clark.

In rejecting the dismissal bid, Judge Leonard said police officers should have ample opportunity to investigate an alleged crime and accepted the prosecution's claim that the time taken for investigation was necessary before filing the charge.

Wells told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer that there were two previous prosecutions in 1968, one for the death of Mrs. Bowerbank and the other for Mrs. Neil's death.

Wells added that a prosecution had interviewed all witnesses in the Bowerbank case in 1967 except for the expert witnesses who testified a year later on the meaning of autopsy reports made after Mrs. Bowerbank's body was exhumed.

Farmington Township police obtained permission to dig up Mrs. Bowerbank's body in November 1967 after the death of Mrs. Neil.

**WEISSWASSER** has alleged to be the only eye-witness to Mrs. Bowerbank's death.

In the first trial, the court determined Mrs. Neil died from an overdose of Sodium Pentothal (truth serum) and found Clark guilty of negligence.

After the exhumation of Mrs. Bowerbank, Oakland County medical examiners found traces of Sodium Pentothal on the deceased's body, determined the dosage could have been lethal and ruled out heart failure as cause of death.

Clark had signed the death certificates for both Mrs. Neil and Mrs. Bowerbank and ruled heart failure as the causes of both deaths.

Since serving in Jackson, Clark's medical license has been suspended by the state medical board. The doctor became eligible for parole shortly after the second manslaughter charge was filed and Wells has maintained the charge has been made only to keep Clark from being paroled on good behavior.



**TORCH LEADER** — Region chairman directing the 1971 Torch Drive residential campaign in Farmington is Mrs. Edmund J. Zeglen (left) of 36203 Paddelford who is chatting with Mrs. Carlton A. Rasmussen of Franklin at a progress report meeting. Mrs. Rasmussen is Oakland unit chairman for the drive set for Oct. 12 through Nov. 4.

## 2 Are Appointed To Torch Jobs

**FARMINGTON**

Two Farmington homemakers have been appointed to leadership posts for the 1971 Torch Drive residential campaign.

Mrs. Edmund J. Zeglen, of 36203 Paddelford Rd., has been named region chairman responsible for house-to-house solicitations in Farmington, Novi and Lyon Townships.

Serving as region chairman directing the canvass of all apartments in Farmington will be Mrs. Robert Lederman, of 30756 Charleston Ct.

**BOTH WILL** begin immediately to enlist, train and organize volunteer workers for the 23rd annual United Foundation campaign scheduled Oct. 12 through Nov. 4.

This year's Torch Drive will underwrite operating costs for 164 health and community services in the Wayne-Oakland-Macomb area.

Reappointed to the campaign post she held last year, Mrs. Zeglen has worked in many earlier Torch Drives as a doorbell ringer.

She is a past president of Our Lady of Sorrows Altar Council of the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. She also formerly served as public relations coordinator for the council.

MRS. ZEGLEN is a past

director of volunteers for St. Mary Hospital, Livonia, and presently is a student in free-lance fiction and television writing.

Her husband is senior project engineer for Massey-Ferguson. They have four children: Mike, 24; Lorrie, 20; Suzy, 15, and Carolyn, 11.

A former Torch Drive doorbell ringer, Mrs. Lederman received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education at Western Reserve University.

She and her husband, Dr. Lederman, also have four children: Robyn, 11; Ronnie, 9; Ricky, 7, and Renee, 2.

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