

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Weekend of April 29-30, 1972

## Pitch In, Pitch Out, Take It All Away

# Township Cleanup Starts

Vol. 83 No. 57

### A Second Election

In 17 days, Farmington Township residents will be going to the polls to decide the question of incorporation. Most of the 41 charter commission candidates met this past week to discuss the campaign and agreed on reasons why cityhood is needed.

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### A Third Election

The Farmington Board of Education will conduct an election June 12 to fill two positions on the board. Residents interested in running for the school board have until May 15 to file nominating petitions. How to run for school board is told inside.

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### A Third Defeat

The millage for Farmington School District has been defeated and a number of persons are wondering why. Residents have been calling this newspaper with the reason it was defeated, but even our callers cannot agree.

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### Crosses

A Farmington lady has lots of them, and we look closely at a few in our Church Section.

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### A Winner

A community directory compiled by Farmington's Jaycee auxiliary turns out to be an award-taker. The story is in our Women's Section.

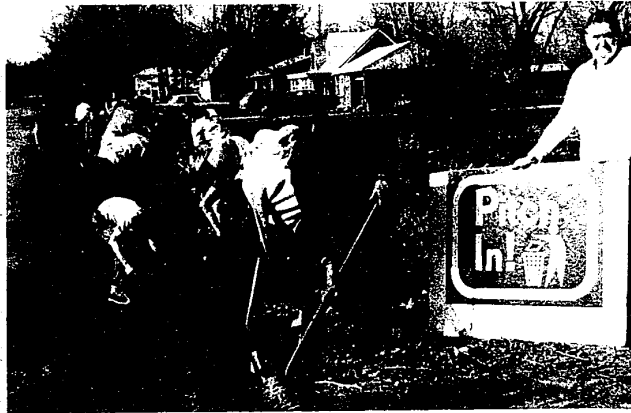
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**THIS COULD BE  
YOUR OBSERVER  
CARRIER**

Your Observer Carrier is trying to win this 10-speed bike and when you pay him this month you put him just a little closer to that goal. Remember to ask him for your receipt. It will guarantee delivery of your hometown newspaper!



**PITCH IN --** Youths and adults, including a one-legged man, pitched in this past week to clean drainage ditches on both sides of Whitlock for a length of about 1 1/2 miles between Franklin and Orchard Lake Rds. The neighbor-

hood project on Whitlock will be repeated throughout the township this week as the semi-annual clean-up drive is under way with the "Pitch In" emphasis added this year. (Evert photo)



**DISAPPEARING SCENE --** A flock of sheep owned by Mrs. Eleanor Spicer of Farmington grazes on part of her 210 acres in Quakertown. Roving Editor W. W. Edgar de-

scribes the above scene as one fast disappearing from the American country side and as one an artist could not paint accurately enough. (Raiph Evert photo)



**LONG-TIME HOBBY --** Raising sheep is sort of a hobby for Mrs. Eleanor Spicer, who has enjoyed her sheep for more than three decades. She has had as many as 75 sheep in one flock but now keeps 20-25 each year. (Evert photo)

## Herding Way Of Life For Eleanor Spicer

By W.W. EDGAR

Her sheep shearing finished for the season and her little black pet lamb given its morning "bottle," Mrs. Eleanor Spicer peered out the window of her fascinating home on Farmington Road in Quakertown and mused: "Oh, they're a nuisance, but they've provided a lot of pleasure for me for a long time."

She was referring to her flock of sheep grazing on the rolling hills of her 210 acre estate. As the sun beat down on the sheared animals they presented a picture no artist could paint. They alternately grazed and "bashed" in a scene that is fast disappearing from the American country side.

FOR MORE than 30 years, Mrs. Spicer has been raising sheep on the land on which she was raised. But as she sat in the spacious living room, she

pondered the question of just how long she would be able to continue her hobby.

"You know," she said, "I was raised in the building next door which our family gave to Farmington for a community center and I was given this house we are in now - and all the land - as a wedding gift. So I've seen a lot of changes and don't know what next to expect."

"The population is spreading. More and more land is being turned over to subdivisions - and the taxes they're just going out of reach."

There was a sharp gleam in her eye and a winsome smile as she added: "And I've seen the price of wool drop from \$2 to 20 cents a pound. That's just about what I received for the wool we sheared during the past few days."

Without waiting to be asked what she thought was the

reason for the drop in price she commented.

"Our government is importing ever so much wool from the Argentine and Australia - and so cheaply - that our price had to drop to meet competition."

But it isn't the price of wool in which Mrs. Spicer is interested so much as it is the higher taxes and the encroachment of residential housing.

AS SHE looked across the rolling land with its bits of woodland and the small stream running by, she sort of sighed and said: "There's not much of this American scene left."

But until she is forced to leave for one reason or another, Mrs. Spicer will continue her hobby of raising and petting sheep.

"I took a liking to them as a little girl," she confided.

"Then back in 1941, at the time of World War II, I decided to raise them."

As a starter she said, she went "down the road a bit" and purchased seven from a Mr. Graham. She had painted several pictures and wanted some of her own subjects, so the seven gave her a start toward a flock.

"I've had as many as 75 in a season," she said, "but that was too much work. Now, I like to keep my flock about what you see out there grazing - about 20 to 25."

MRS. SPICER explained her liking for the sheep to the fact that they teach you a lesson.

"They always seem so contented," she explained, "and they teach you to have patience. They never seem to get overly excited or upset."

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