

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

A New Attitude . . .

is gradually taking place in the minds of many Farmington area citizens as far as future commercial and industrial expansion is concerned.

It is evident at public meetings and in individual conversations. The mere suggestion of commercial or industrial expansion a few years ago would have brought a flood of protest. Today it is being openly advocated as a progressive forward step. This does not necessarily mean that all Farmington area residents want this kind of development in the community by choice. It does mean, however, that many citizens have come to the inevitable conclusion that commercial and industrial development is essential to the financial stability of the community.

As The Enterprise has stated many times before, we cannot hope to meet our obligations on a purely residential tax base. We cannot hope to build home employment, insure community identity and provide the merchandise and services we need for everyday life without adequate commercial and industrial facilities.

Our schools, our city and our township are continually faced with new problems which require and deserve the financial support of the community. These new problems can be more easily solved and with less burden on the individual home owner through the encouragement of a more adequate economic structure.

How can this be done? By desire, by planning and by promotion! If Farmington is to have this kind of development, the people must want it. They, as well as the various government officials, must be willing to work out an organized plan far enough in advance to insure orderly development, while at the same time protecting existing residential property. As a final step, the entire community must cooperate in the formation and support of a committee for economic development or Chamber of Commerce who will spearhead the selection and promotion of commerce and industry that will be most beneficial to the area.

This is no easy job, but it can and is being done in many communities throughout the State. The rewards are a stronger and more productive community and a better way of life for all the citizens.

Starting This Week . . .

The Enterprise is publishing a series of biographical information stories on the various candidates seeking nomination in the biennial Township Primary Election, February 18.

While the basic purpose of these sketches is to provide factual information on the candidates, we have a second objective in mind: that of stimulating voter participation in the coming election. The publishing of these biographies would be of little value if nobody exercised their voting privilege on February 18. We know that a certain number of citizens will cast their ballots on election day, but the big question is, how many?

Fortunately in this country, nobody can force you to vote. This would be dictatorship in its boldest form. However, we do reserve the right to appeal to your sense of responsibility and obligation as a free citizen. We do feel compelled to warn you of the possible consequences of minority action at the polls. None of us, who take pride in our country and our community, can afford to let down for a moment. We must take advantage of every opportunity to use the tools that have been given to us for the preservation of our democratic way of life.

It is our sincere hope that these biographical sketches will provide you with the information you want and need to make a sound decision on February 18. Even more important, however, we hope that the series will attract sufficient interest to result in a record vote on election day. The final answer rests in your hands!

Two Important Events . . .

took place last week in Washington and Lansing, which could mean good news to every haggard and worn taxpayer.

First, the President invited Congress to work over his budget with the idea of cutting any unnecessary items. Second, the Governor voluntarily took several good sized chunks out of his budget proposal. As a result, the prospects of a king-sized tax boost have been reduced to some extent, at least.

We sincerely hope that both Congress and the State Legislature will take the cue and work as hard at trying to find ways and means of saving money as they have in trying to dream up ways of getting it in the past.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

SOUTHFIELD—The county board of supervisors meeting last week in Pontiac settled two points of special interest to Southfield: the question of a third Charter election and the status of Eugene Swen, elected mayor without a city at the second Charter vote, December 3 of last year.

The vote of approval on a third Charter try was unanimously approved by the board of supervisors. April 1 was set as the date for a third election on a Charter and the election of councilmen and other city officials. It was pointed out that all persons who served on the second Charter Commission will not be eligible to vote for the third draft but that all officers for city offices who have run in the past may run again.

Speaking as chairman of the committee on boundaries of cities and villages, William A. Ewart of Pontiac indicated that identical petitions for a third home rule vote had been received from Dearborn, East Livonia, Michigan, and East Livonia, Michigan. Ewart contended that Swen, who was elected in the second Charter try, held the office of defacto mayor and not Swanson, elected in the first try, and accepted his petition.

—The Four Corners Press

DEARBORN—The feud between Dearborn's Municipal Court and the City Administration flared up again last week when Judge George T. Martin dispatched a letter of condemnation to the Court concerning traffic ticket ordinances.

Martin charged city officials were hampering the court and the police department in traffic law enforcement. He again asked the Council to re-enact the "no fix" ticket enforcement. Under the "no fix" ordinance, traffic tickets were sent to court the day after they were issued and were numbered and could be checked by number as well as by name.

Under the present ordinance, Martin contended, delay and inconvenience to the public is being caused, a great deal of additional work is being caused to the Court and inefficiently handled in the police department is resulting. He stated that since unnumbering of tickets went into effect, thousands of tickets have either disappeared or have not been issued. Although traffic had increased considerably on Dearborn streets in 1956 over 1955.

—The Dearborn Independent

ROMEO—Twenty-one representatives of civic, fraternal and youth organizations met last Friday at Romeo village hall to discuss and raise funds for the proposed community building. It was pointed out at the meeting that if each of the organizations in the community sponsored some type of fund raising activity, the community house project could be put well on the way to completion. A \$150 to \$200 goal was set for each of the organizations. Another meeting of representatives from each of the organizations has been called for February 15 to align fund-raising activities so that they do not conflict with one another.

A five and one-half acre parcel of land has been donated for the community building site. Proposed cost for construction of a building on the site has been set at approximately \$15,000.

—The Romeo Observer Press

BIRMINGHAM—Completion of the school personnel planning study by the citizens' committee on education is expected by February 15, Chairman Louis A. Bauer announced this week. The first of three subcommittee reports dealing with existing conditions, what is needed and how to finance any suggested improvements, is in the hands of the 18-member steering committee and is being studied.

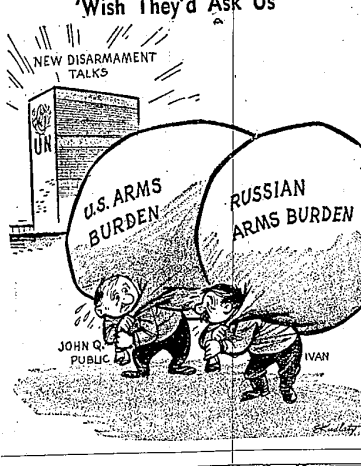
The report deals with present practices in teacher recruitment, training, classifications, salaries, fringe benefits, organization and other area of personnel administration.

The citizens' committee on education is an independent fact-finding body of interested citizens who live in the Birmingham School District, but which has no official connection with the school system. It was organized by the PTA council in 1954. Principal objective of the committee is to make comprehensive studies and recommendations on broad areas of school affairs and to make recommendations to the School Board and reports to PTA groups on findings.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

The new Automotive Engineering Laboratory vastly increases The University of Michigan's facilities for education and research in this field. It includes equipment for studying gas turbine and piston engines as well as the conventional types.

According to the National Safety Council, a car traveling on ice at 20 miles per hour requires 217 feet, counting reaction time, to come to a complete stop.



A "SCHOOL THAT NOBODY WANTED," the state Boys' Vocational School at Lansing, now finds it has many friends.

BVS, an institution caring for boys with criminal records, has been a controversial issue the last few years in attempts to find a new location.

Pressure mounted beginning years ago to move the school out of Lansing. In 1926 some land was purchased for this purpose, but later diverted to other uses. An attempt to build a new security unit for boys was not approved by the legislature.

Last year the legislature turned an ear towards the BVS problem and appropriated money to purchase land at a new location.

A site at Whitmore Lake was selected by the Department of Social Welfare, the controlling office for BVS. W. J. Maxey, department director, explains that the choice was directed by a desire to be near the extensive medical and psychiatric facilities located in Ann Arbor, and also within a reasonable distance from Detroit—where most of the boys live. Whitmore residents immediately protested the decision. They point out that their present resort area is developing rapidly into a community similar to the present site. That reasons which make Lansing undesirable will exist soon in Whitmore. They also refer to U of M hospitals already over crowded psychiatric facilities, with the suggestion that BVS needs its own psychiatric staff wherever it is located.

Many express valid reasons for not locating BVS at Whitmore Lake. They have placed considerable pressure on their state representatives to bring the matter before the legislature during the current session.

The city of Grayling now enters the picture. There, the Crawford County Chamber of Commerce and

the County Board of Supervisors passed resolutions asking for BVS. Bob Hayes, secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce, says "The whole town is for it. We'd like to see if we couldn't help these kids."

Several advantages for a site at Grayling are pointed out by Hayes. Construction costs would be less than at Whitmore Lake. Unlimited space is available. Cost per person a day is lower. Vocational training is available through the Conservation Department. Professional psychiatric help is available forty-five miles away at Traverse City.

One important factor is missing as members of the Social Welfare Commission. A location near the city of Detroit is highly desirable. According to C. H. Runciman of Lowell, vice-chairman of the Commission, one of the greatest influences in rehabilitating the boys is regular visits from parents.

Since most of the boys in BVS come from the Detroit area, a northern Michigan location would make weekly visits impossible for most families, Runciman says.

A new struggle may shape up in the legislature. The Social Welfare Commission has authorized David Maxey to seek a legislative appropriation for construction of a security unit at the Whitmore (Continued on Page 3C)



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LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Bower
EDITOR OF "LOOKING AHEAD"
George S. Bower

BUILDING FOR FREEDOM
After the American colonies had won their freedom from Great Britain and had created a constitutional Republic to safeguard it, gradually a way of life emerged that was unique in the records of human history. We call it the American way of life. Some people—especially those who want to see it destroyed—say you cannot define the American way of life, that the term is an abstraction. Therefore, a definition that everyone can accept is important.

In previous columns of this series on the American way of life we have noted that the people who began the private ownership economic system at Jamestown and Plymouth Colony were following their strong religious impulses in everything they did. And later, when another generation of pioneers wrote the Declaration of Independence, the first passages declared that the people of America proposed to "assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitled them." This proposition—emphasizing the sacredness of the individual under God—became the keynote in the creation of our constitutional Republic.

The Foundation
Thus the foundation stone in the American way of life is faith in God. Upon this foundation was placed the United States Constitution. Its chief purpose was to create a structure of government to protect the individual freedom of citizens, to give the citizenry all power over the government. Many Americans carelessly accept our government as a "done deal." Actually it is a constitutional Republic.

Although the term was not mentioned in any of the founding documents, representative democracy emerged as our political way of life within the framework of our constitutional Republic and social democracy became the trademark of human relations in this new nation. Our Constitution protects rights of minorities which sheer democracy would permit to be taken away by majority vote. This is an extremely important feature of our constitutional Republic.

Better Welfare
After America had established the constitutional structure of government, giving full reign to the wholesome constructive impulses of a free people, our economic system immediately began to bring improving welfare to the citizenry. In the first century of our Republic, the national income (Continued on Page 4B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 28, 1932)
Treasurer Race

Political fireworks in Farmington Township preceding the Spring Primary election, according to early indications at least, will be largely confined to a battle for the nomination for Township Treasurer. Five candidates have already indicated that they are to be candidates for the office. The incumbent, Mark D. Bachelor, is automatically out of the race by virtue of now having completed his second successive term. The candidates for whom petitions are being circulated are Mrs. Loretta Cox, Clarenceville; Charles Habermehl; Fred Lahr, Clarenceville; Willis T. Roberts, Clarenceville, and Roy Schroeder, Twelve Mile Road. No contests have as yet developed for other Township offices as yet, but there are rumors that petitions for nomination will appear shortly endorsing candidates for supervisor, clerk and highway commissioner.

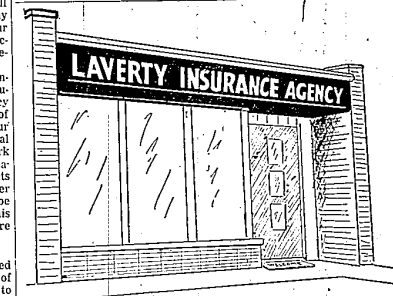
TEEN YEARS AGO (January 30, 1947)
Township Primary

All but one office will be contested for nomination on the Republican ticket in the Farmington Township Primary Election to be held Monday, January 17. Petitions have been filed by the following candidates: Supervisor, Ernest Blanchard and John W. Keith; Clerk, Clara W. Gossett; Harry McCracken and Fred G. Allen; Treasurer, Clayton Dempsey, Chester Menendez, Robert Miller, Harry Shafer and Thomas Tardy; Board of Review, Clyde Dembo and Charles Heise; Constables, (four to be elected), James Fanzini, Godfrey Gagnon; William LaForge, Ralph Marinho, Norman E. Moore and Harvey M. Squires.

New Light
Within the next two weeks a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Roads. A center overhang light will be installed to replace the side lights now in use. Fire in the business district last week greatly affected the wiring and mechanism of the lights which have presently been in use for over 15 years.

FIVE YEARS AGO (January 31, 1932)
Clarenceville School

The Clarenceville School District will not receive Federal funds for new school building construction, Louis Schmidt, superintendent, announced this week Schmidt stated that he received the information during a trip to Washington, D. C. last week. The Clarenceville District does not have high enough priority under present public Act 874, he learned, and cannot get funds unless additional funds are appropriated by the present Congress under this Act.



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