

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

A Great Many Issues . . .

of public concern are currently being debated before the Township Board. These issues involve problems which are of vital importance to every citizen of the Township. In spite of these facts, too few of our citizens are willing to take the time to attend these important sessions.

There is hardly a day goes by but what we hear of a new proposal from some resident relative to one or more of these current problems. Needless, to say, some of these proposals make sense. In some cases, we attempt to pass the information along to the proper authorities for what it may be worth. However, this is far from the ideal situation. These proposals should be presented and debated first hand at a Township Board meeting.

In our opinion, a citizen's responsibility does not begin and end at the polling place. We all have an obligation to contribute our energies and our ideas in a continuing effort to build a better and a more progressive community. This involves more than just passive vigilance . . . it involves thought and cooperative action. Problems of water, sewage disposal, planning and roads are going to be solved only through community-wide recognition of the seriousness of the various situations. This can best be accomplished by community-wide representation at Township Board meetings.

Farmington is fortunate in having an abundance of talent and ability among its citizens. It would be a tragic waste to allow these natural assets of ours to go untapped. Every subdivision association and every civic group should select one or two of its members to attend each Board meeting. These representatives could not only serve as a sounding board for new ideas within their group, but could act as a liaison in singling out special talent which is continually needed on committees and individual projects.

We all have a stake in the future of our community. We all have an obligation to contribute at least a portion of our time and effort toward making it a better place in which to live.

A Variety of Schemes . . .

are being kicked around, on both a state and national level, in a desperate effort to find an answer to the ever-increasing problem of school financing.

There is no question but what an answer must be found, and soon, if our public educational system is to continue to serve the needs of the nation. However, it is going to take more than just a scheme or two. It is essential that we find a sound basic foundation upon which to build the economic structure of our school system.

We are not referring here to the problems of school buildings and classroom facilities, but rather to the costs of operating our public education program. For years our Legislators and the general public chose to ignore the inevitable. Teachers' salaries were kept at a level far below the average, thus limiting the number of new people entering the field. Courses of study were, of necessity, restricted, thus limiting opportunity for broader education. Instructional expenses were held to a minimum in order to balance budgets and keep classrooms open.

Then suddenly the bubble exploded. The crowded classrooms began to burst at the seams, a giant movement to increase teacher salaries began to take hold and demands for greater educational opportunities became necessary. Thus in the course of a few years we have come face to face with a problem that has been building up for decades. What is the realistic and logical answer? If the solution was easy . . . it would have been found years ago.

Unfortunately, there is no quick answer. However, we do believe that it can be solved. First, the basic allocation per child should be increased to take care of his or her education without the necessity for local taxation for operation. Second, a more up-to-date method should be devised for the proportionment of sales tax monies, particularly in the more rapidly growing areas of the state. Third, sales tax funds going to other units of government, but not being needed or extended by those units, should be returned for re-distribution where emergencies exist.

In our opinion, these are keystones to the kind of a sound basic foundation we need now and in the years ahead. This doesn't lessen our responsibility to provide the classroom facilities our youngsters need and deserve, but it does give direction and purpose to the fundamental ideal of equal opportunity for all.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

LIVONIA—Mayor William Bishers has promised the full cooperation of the City of Livonia in the "litterbug campaign" to be launched by the Livonia and Rosebade Gardens branches of the Michigan National Farm and Gardens Association.

The club members will conduct educational programs throughout the district to promote a continuing "anti-litterbug" campaign. Mayor Bishers assured the club leaders of the full cooperation and assistance of all city departments and gave them copies of ordinance 34 which regulates the disposition of waste and rubbish. Ordinance 34 provides for penalties of up to 90 days in jail and \$500 fine for persons in violation of the ordinance.

BIRMINGHAM—New businesses and additions to existing Birmingham commercial structures would have to provide more parking space than presently required if an amendment, discussed by city commissioners Monday night, is subsequently adopted. The amendment would require that new businesses and additions to existing ones must provide one square foot of off-street parking for every square foot of floor space devoted to the public. The commission generally agrees with city officials that this ordinance should be amended to require off-street parking on the basis of total floor space and not just that floor space devoted to the public.

City officials indicated that a change in tenancy often brings on an increase in traffic which cannot find available parking. If the total floor area were used as the basis for parking, it would take care of all eventual building uses.

The Birmingham Eccentric—Heated charges of "trail-roading" and "politics" arose Monday night at a suddenly called meeting of the Novi Township Board.

Called suddenly Monday morning with no indication of the purpose of the meeting being given on posted notices, the members of the Board indicated themselves at meeting time that they did not know why the meeting had been called.

During the meeting Charles Trickey, Jr., treasurer, angrily charged Supervisor Frazer Staman who called the meeting with "railroading" approval of his own salary, instead of leaving the matter for the spring meeting as is customary. He then charged that Staman was using the soon-to-be vacated job of Township recreationist as a "political foothold."

When Staman indicated that the meeting had been called to correct certain minor errors in Township primary election notices, Hadley Bachert, clerk, expressed bitterness and stated that he saw no need for calling a special meeting for this purpose.

Staman replied that the errors should be taken care of by the Board. "Then is this designed just to make me look stupid?" Bachert asked pointedly.

The Novi News—**SOUTHFIELD**—A decision to suspend action on non-legal assessment districts has been confirmed by the Southfield Township Board. The matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Board when it became apparent that special assessment districts in petitioning increasing numbers were bogging down the bi-monthly agenda, that other important business was being backlogged.

When the lid was lifted has not been disclosed but it is probable that no new districts will be considered until after the summer Charter vote.

Business consuming much time also at board meetings of late has been the matter of public hearings which follow decisions to set up special assessment districts in providing water systems, sewers or paving. A suggestion offered by trustee Lou Wagner is that the special hearings be reserved for special meetings of the Board, dates to be set as necessary.

—The Four Corners Press

Got to Make More Room



Michigan Mirror

DO YOU HAVE MORE NEIGHBORS NOW than you did 15 years ago? It's entirely probable, according to statistics released by Dr. Albert E. Heustis, state health commissioner.

Michigan's population passed the 7 1/2 million mark in 1956, said Dr. Heustis. What's more, the 8 million mark should be reached by 1960.

More births—less deaths are the biggest factors in the state's spectacular population increases. For each recorded death there are now more than three new babies entering the world in Michigan.

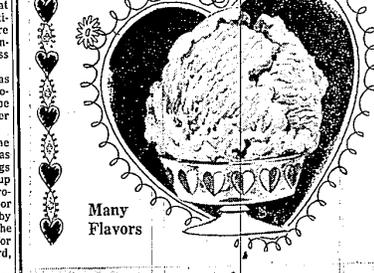
In 1950 the birth rate was approximately 59 per 1,000 residents. At the same time deaths continued below nine per 1,000. The birth rate continues to grow according to Dr. Heustis' report. In 1941, the report states, "births surpassed 100,000 for the first time."

Medical advances continue to make inroads in the death rate. Maternity deaths decreased 50 per cent in the past 20 years. The death rate for newborn infants is down 55.8 per cent. Among adults, heart disease and cancer continue as the No. 1 and 2 killers.

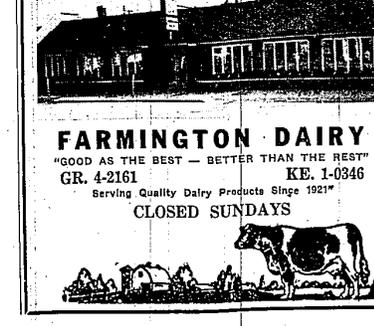
The "ups-and-downs" of medicine's fight against disease are recorded in the report. On the "good" side of the ledger the fight against infantile paralysis makes the most dramatic showing. With the first full year of immunization shots now past, poliomyelitis cases are not expected to go much higher than 600 for 1956. This is approximately half of the 1,177 cases reported in 1955.

Tuberculosis deaths are apparently leveling off. Last year's deaths are expected to number 500. Some 5,488 cases were reported.

On the "bad" side, increases in typhoid fever and diphtheria are noted. The number of diphtheria



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LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Benson
 DIRECTOR - NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 Spring, 1956

LESSONS OF HISTORY

Five generations of American citizens have enjoyed individual freedom as a matter of course. The present population of America, with the exception of a comparatively few immigrants, was born in freedom and would find it difficult even to conceive of living under any other circumstances. And yet no nation in all human history has ever achieved freedom. This is an extremely significant fact which Americans should understand.

Man's desire for freedom was first recognized when the development of civilization brought on the need for government. Man quickly found that government by its very nature encroaches upon individual freedom. It must have power to operate, and that power can only come from one source, the people; they must give up some power, some freedom, to the government. When the founding fathers built the structure of the American way of life, they were faced with government with various kinds of restrictions limiting its powers. The Bill of Rights, which was attached to the constitution, was put together to protect the individual citizen against his own government.

The Founders Knew
 The men who worked on the creation of the Constitution all knew that freedom had never existed for long anywhere, and that no nation had ever become a world leader and a survivor. Twenty world-leading nations had flourished in their own mistakes and eventually had fallen. Washington, Hamilton, Webster and other framers of the Constitution were determined that the American system should survive and become a world pattern for lasting freedom and human progress. The structure they developed has lasting qualities—if each succeeding generation will but understand its workings and safeguard its principles.

Can we who have benefited from this wonderful legacy of freedom take lessons from the history of the nations which have risen to world leadership and subsequently fallen into oblivion? Indeed we can.

The Onetime Leaders
 Among the most notable world leaders whose histories we have available in great detail are Old Babylon, Ancient Egypt, Assyria, Egypt under the Pharaohs, New Babylon, Phoenicia, Persia, Greece, in which Sparta and Athens represented two kinds of government, and Rome. Many of the achievements of these nations con-

(Continued on Page 8B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 4, 1932)
 Depositors' Committee
 More than 300 Farmington residents gathered at the Town Hall last Thursday, where they heard an explanation of and approved a depositors' stockholders' agreement for the purpose of maintaining the People's State Bank as a going institution and keeping at least one American in the community. The endorsement of the agreement without a dissenting vote gave indication that the bank may be able to resume functioning on the basis of unquestioned co-operation in less than ten days under the guidance of a Depositors' Committee, bank officials said. The bank has not closed, but on Tuesday voluntarily discontinued receiving deposits and permitting withdrawals and will maintain this status until signatures representing a large enough percentage of the total deposits have been received. At this time resumption of the customary banking services will be started.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 6, 1947)
 Fire Inspection
 A general fire inspection tour of the Farmington business district was made Wednesday by a representative from the Michigan Fire Marshall office. The inspection was prompted by the fire on January 21 which destroyed or badly damaged several buildings in the business district. Such an inspection is routine following any fire of this nature, it was pointed out. A careful check of the business district was made with particular attention being given to safety precautions and preventive measures. A list of recommendations and safety measures to be taken will be submitted business places based on this inspection, it was indicated.

FIVE YEARS AGO (February 7, 1952)
 School Bond Issue
 The sale of \$700,000 worth of construction bonds for the Clarenceville School District has been awarded to a combination of six investment companies, it was announced Monday. The sale of the bonds will make possible early construction of a new elementary school to be located on Lathrop Street in the southeast section of the District as well as the addition to the high school proposed. One other elementary school in the northeast section of the School District is being planned. Work has begun on the surveying of the Lathrop Street school site and the high school addition. The school architects are now working on preliminary plans for the two units.

Postmaster Job
 Applications are now being taken for civil service examinations for filling the position of Postmaster at the Farmington Post Office. Competitors will not be required to report for written examinations, but will be rated on their education, business and professional experience, qualifications and suitability, the Civil Service Commission stated.



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