

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

We've Been Kicked . . .

in the teeth before but rarely from such an honorable source as our fellow journalists in the big city to the east of us.

According to an editorial in the February 14 issue of The Detroit News, regarding the water and sewer problem in southern Farmington Township, "It seems all but incredible that the exposure of such a situation, with its threat of filth diseases long thought of as 'conquered,' should have been left to a newspaper—this newspaper." The News also uses the words "suddenly exposed to view" in reference to its recent coverage of the water situation in the dry area.

The editorial does relent slightly by saying, "In speaking of this as 'exposed' by The News, it is not meant to imply that township and county health authorities were unaware of the condition or indifferent to it. They had, in fact, warned of the danger repeatedly. But their warnings went unheeded and they were helpless. It was left to a newspaper with its metropolitan circulation to publicize the condition and thus prompt the steps now being taken to remedy it." We do not intend to engage in a David and Goliath controversy with The Detroit News, but we do feel that some explanation is necessary especially to the newer residents of the Farmington community.

There is a strong inference in the editorial, and it is being picked up by some people, that no other newspaper has been concerned with this problem or has attempted to do anything about it. In the issue of May 12, 1934, The Enterprise ran a feature story and picture on the unsanitary conditions in the Township following a special tour with Dr. John Voss, then Township Health Officer. That same issue carried an editorial urging Township officials to take action in cleaning up the situation. The Enterprise strongly supported the adoption of a Township Health Ordinance which was approved on July 21, 1934.

Since the issue of August 26, 1934, announcing the appointment of the Citizens' Water Committee, The Enterprise has continually publicized the water situation. We have commended Dr. Joseph Gadbaw, former Township Health Officer and the Citizens' Water Committee for the time and effort they have devoted to this vital project. We have repeatedly urged the Township officials to take prompt action in organizing an orderly plan of procedure in an effort to solve the problem.

In recounting these facts, we are not looking for any credit. This is our job as a community newspaper and we are attempting to do the best we can. We welcome the help and the attention that The Detroit News and the other Detroit newspapers can give to this problem. On various occasions we have opened our files to reporters from the Detroit dailies, and have taken the time to fill them in on background information. We were glad to do it in order that wider publicity might be given to the situation.

We commend The Detroit News for bringing this matter to the attention of prominent outside authorities, but we wish to correct the inference that no other newspaper has been attempting to do anything about it!

We're In The Midst . . .

of an important observance and yet many of us are not aware of what is taking place. This is probably understandable since we have observances practically every week of the year.

However, this observance is a little bit different. It has to do with "Living Together." For the sake of simplicity it is called Brotherhood Week and it is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. While the art of "Living Together" cannot be crystallized in a week, it can be started, promoted and strengthened.

Cooperation between nations must start with understanding between peoples. This, as individuals we can do . . . this we must do if we are to achieve true freedom in a living democracy.

The Action . . .

of the Township Board Thursday evening, in following through on a suggestion from Clayton Goers, that an immediate audit be made of the Township books, is highly commendable.

By taking the initiative, both Goers and the Board have indicated an open willingness in clearing up any doubt that may exist as a result of statements made at the Political Rally last Wednesday. Goers' insistence that the audit be made by an outside firm of Certified Public Accountants is further indication of his sincerity. The audit is to be completed by March 15 and the results will be published.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



NOVI—The Novi School Board has initiated action to increase the size of the Novi School District by more than half and gain the right to levy school taxes on the new Lincoln plant being built. The Board's action was in the form of a petition to the County Board of Education last week. The petition requests boundary alterations that would enlarge the Novi District so that it extended between the east and west Township boundaries and from 13 Mile Road on the north to 91 Mile Road on the south.

Novi Superintendent William Medlyn estimated the change would increase the size of the District from 15 square miles to about 24 or 25 square miles. At present, it will affect only some 100 children, he added. The County School Board has scheduled a public hearing on the request for July 12. Unless contested, its decision will be final. If contested, the decision will go for a final decision to the State Board of Education.

This action is complicated by the fact that it involves four other School Districts, Medlyn pointed out. The change would mean that portions of four other districts—Farmington, South Lyon, Northville and Walled Lake—would come into the Novi District, he said.

• • • The Novi News

PLYMOUTH—Plans were unveiled today by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company to be installed and ready to serve Plymouth early in 1938. To be built on Ann Arbor Road just east of the city, the two-story, six-unit structure will cost about \$500,000. It was pointed out that all present telephones must be replaced. Direct dialing equipment will be installed with include equipment making it possible to dial direct to New York, Boston or San Francisco as easily and as quickly as calling a friend down the block. Bell officials emphasized.

Billing for direct long-distance dialing calls will be handled through the use of a new development known as Automatic Meter Recording. This equipment records all data for billing a call on a separate tape which is decoded, gives the accounting department all the information needed for billing officials said.

—The Plymouth Mail

LATHRUP—Don Pierce, chief engineer for the State Board of Health, has stamped Lathrup's "hold everything" play with a "hold everything."

At a study meeting last week, State health officials told the Lathrup Council its plan to build a hospital under the proposed relief sewer network must be "more clearly defined" before approval can be given the project. The officials also were optimistic with a request for a complete set of plans on the project and the council asked consulting engineers to supply this report within 30 days.

Major J. Campbell has been pressing for a bond issue to raise from \$438,000 to \$542,000 for the April ballot. The other board members have been blocking the bond bid until further study can be given the plan for a network of sewers throughout the city to handle all of its future storm water.

The long-delayed Evergreen Interceptor drain system would end sewage worries, but otherwise Lathrup will face the possibility of a \$1-million program to dispose of its own sewage.

—The Four Corners Press

BIRMINGHAM—Any more months like January and the Birmingham city building will be out promoting the sale and use of vacant lots.

In the first 31 days of this year, it handled building permits for only \$38,507 worth of new construction or alterations of existing residents. Building Inspector Andrew Butts' January report shows a new low in permits taken out, a run-through of office records says.

"Next month I am sure things will be back much toward normal," Butts commented hopefully. In January last year, \$424,000 in values were processed, \$255,000 in 1935 and \$386,000 in 1934.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

DEARBORN—Dearborn merchants will celebrate Washington's birthday this Friday by opening their annual Crazy Daze Celebration. The sale will be conducted both Friday and Saturday. This marks the fourth year that the Crazy Daze sale has been sponsored by the Retail Committee of the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce.

—The Dearborn Independent

BORN USE

Leading authorities advocate the use of two short beeps, or a series of beeps, as "universal horn language." Here are the advantages: Short beeps have a pleasant peep sound. They get attention without offending or angering pedestrians and other motorists, they say. They warn without sounding angry.

Signs of Spring



WHAT HAPPENS TO A TOWN when a major highway is routed around its limits instead of running "down the main street?"

This question will be raised with increasing frequency during the next three years when some 800 miles of new multiple-lane, divided highways are constructed across Michigan.

"Limited access" highways will form a large part of this construction program outlined last week by Highway Commissioner Charles M. Seger. These roads, with unequalled safety with divided multiple lanes, a controlled number of entrances, and bypasses around many towns and cities.

And merchants and villages depending on transients for much of their business are already beginning to voice fears that a by-pass would endanger their economic structure.

Fears may be unfounded. While Michigan's limited access highway program is still in its infancy, there are 169 miles of fully limited or controlled highways in the state, other areas have made exhaustive studies on towns bypassed by major routes.

A survey made by the United States Chamber of Commerce suggests a town is improved in every way by having a highway routed around it rather than down the main street. Reports from California and Texas confirm the results.

Highway Department experts point out that no new businesses can be built along roads having limited access. Motorists must turn off at some point to eat, find lodging and purchase gasoline.

An example of the added boom to business recently occurred in Sturgis when the Indiana Turnpike opened just south of the Michigan state line. According to officials, even though Sturgis was four miles away from the turnpike, motel and hotel business increased 25 per cent from persons

LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George I. Searles
FARMINGTON—A NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM
Farmington, Mich.

WHAT MAKES PROGRESS?

Visitors from other countries often stand in awe when they see the widespread evidence of American great production. When told that this unparalleled production results from our unique economic system, they still do not understand how this is possible. Many Americans do not know what makes our economic system tick. They may know that the three great foundation stones of the American way of life are God, Constitution, government, and the private ownership economic system; but they do not understand what makes the economic system work so well.

There are five accelerators built into our production system which are not found in combination and in like measure anywhere else in the world. It is important that every citizen know what these five factors are, so they can be properly appreciated and protected: They are: 1. Freedom to work; 2. Freedom to dream; 3. Freedom to compete; 4. Freedom to advance and 5. Freedom to invest.

Our freedom to choose our occupation makes it possible for the American to enjoy his work, to work at top efficiency and thus produce more per man hour of work. Productivity means production per worker. The American's freedom to choose his own work has been a basic factor in pushing American productivity far ahead of the rate in every other country in the world.

When the American finds the occupation he likes, he is free to dream and to try to make his dreams come true. Thomas Edison tinkered with everything, and he constantly dreamed of new things to create. Some of Edison's inventions have been priceless contributions to the advancing welfare of American citizens. Many important discoveries and developments in American industry have come from the minds of workers with freedom to dream. Industries have themselves been created out of the ideas of workers with freedom to dream. Our system harnesses the brain power of the whole population.

Demands of Competition When a person is free to dream dreams, and free to make his dreams come true, he encounters in America a third great stimulating factor: competition. He may dream up a new kind of farm tractor which performs amazing feats. But anybody else can make tractors too. If someone can beat the dreamer in production and market.

(Continued on Page 4B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 18, 1932)
Late Petition

In order that every man have an equal chance as a candidate for office, Clerk Willard Campbell of Farmington Township will place upon the primary election ballot the name of William Wendland even though his petition, under strict interpretation of the law, was filed one day too late. The action takes on a great significance since Wendland is running against Campbell for the seat of clerk. Although decisions of the court are fairly clear on the matter of when petitions must be filed, Attorney James Lynch of Pontiac, pointed out, Mr. Campbell can still exercise his discretion in the matter since a technicality is involved in the matter. Since recognition of nomination petitions rests finally with the clerk, overturning of the clerk's acceptance or rejection is a long and doubtful undertaking in the courts, he commented.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 20, 1927)
Township Election

Despite the fact that there was a contest for nomination in every office but one in the Township Primary election, a very tight vote was cast. Only a very small percentage of the registered voters in the township went to the polls on Monday. Incumbent officers were returned to their respective offices for another term with the exception of the office of constable. With four constables to be elected, two are new. Elected to office were: Blanchard, supervisor; McCracken, clerk; Goers, treasurer; Heise, board of review; Shafer and Tardy, justices of peace, and LaForge, Moore, Gagnon and Squires, constables.

FIVE YEARS AGO (February 21, 1932)
Township Zoning

Voters of Farmington Township overwhelmingly approved the zoning ordinance proposal at a special election held Monday. The total vote was 1,428 in favor of the ordinance and 413 against. In spite of the unusually heavy vote for a special election, less than half of the registered voters in the Township went to the polls. Administration of the new ordinance is expected to be set up in the next few weeks. The new ordinance will be handled by a Board of Appeals. The ordinance takes effect at once on all future construction in the Township. It was pointed out, however, that the ordinance is not retroactive and cannot affect any construction now existing in the Township.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

BORN USE

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