

Editorial Page

On The Basis . . .

of information included in the Progress Report of the City of Farmington for 1956, a total of 230 arrests were made by the Police Department, 95 of which involved juvenile cases.

Right at the beginning, we want to emphasize that this is not an attempt to focus attention or make a case regarding so-called juvenile delinquency. Considering the size and scope of the community, this is rather an enviable record. Certainly the vast majority of our boys and girls are not only contributing to the well-being of the community but are building a sound foundation for good citizenship. Undoubtedly the record would show that many of the arrests involve youngsters from outside the Farmington community.

In evaluating these facts, we must recognize that while the vast majority of our boys and girls are doing a constructive job, the minority must be dealt with. When we say "dealt with," we mean helped. The statistics here in Farmington and all over the country indicates that more and more help is needed. Farmington is doing a great deal to provide helpful active recreation for its boys and girls. Our churches and our schools are also contributing valuable assistance. In our opinion, there is still one other thing which we as a community can do. That is to establish a Court of No Record or advisory commission to work on juvenile cases in cooperation with the Police Department and the Court.

Under such a program, a more detailed and intimate approach can be given to the individual's problem. A spirit of cooperation can be developed between the youngster, his or her parents and the law enforcement agencies. A definite program of spiritual, educational and recreational activity can be outlined which will help the individual regain a sense of responsibility and thus prevent more serious difficulties.

The Legal Opinion . . .

submitted to the Township Board at its May 14 meeting regarding the lack of authority for the acceptance of subdivision water systems, casts an entirely new light on this important phase of community development.

The big question which arises now is . . . where do we go from here? It is pretty well established that for the time being, at least, we must be content with privately operated subdivision systems and private wells, except for those areas where special assessment or revenue bond districts can be established.

In our opinion, this is not the most desirable situation. While the acceptance of subdivision systems would create additional work for the local government, it would provide a valuable means of coordination and control, which cannot be accomplished under the present limitations. In addition, such systems, if properly supervised and managed, should be a financial asset to the community.

However, regardless of any personal feelings on the problem itself, the Board is to be commended for its alertness and vigilance.

The Big Wrangle . . .

over state finances was interrupted by the Legislature last week, just long enough to push through a pension plan for veteran members.

The change of pace came in the midst of one of the most controversial problems to plague the state in many a moon. Frankly, we can't see the pension idea for dust, especially when crack and cranny is being pawed over in the hopes of finding a few extra dollars for vital services. Probably the state contribution to the Legislator's pension plan would not put very many rooms in our overcrowded school systems or very many beds in our inadequate mental hospitals, but it would sure help.

We recognize that our Legislators are contributing a great deal in time, effort and money as a service to their community and their state. At the same time we recognize that the majority of them have other basic occupations. To these men and women, public service is not a career but a dedication, or at least it should be.

In the midst of heated debate over essential budget requests on the one side and newly dreamed-up tax proposals on the other, a pension plan for Legislators seems just a little inconsistent.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI — Teachers in the Novi School District have been granted a down-the-line pay increase, to be effective next fall, making the Novi faculty one of the highest paid in this area.

Called for is a \$100 increase in starting salaries and a higher annual increment. The new scale gives teachers with no experience and a bachelor's degree \$4,200 a year, as compared with \$4,200 last year. For each year of experience, the teacher will get an annual increment of \$225 as compared with \$200 last year. Teachers with a master's degree and no experience will start at \$4,500 as compared with \$4,400 paid last year and receive an annual increment of \$250 as against \$200 paid last year.

Teachers also will be granted ten days sick leave a year, accumulative to 50 days.

—The Novi News

SOUTHFIELD — Nearly 100 aggravated citizens assailed the Franklin Village Council Monday night with their grievances about road and dust conditions. Armed with a petition signed by 190 residents, the group requested that permission be granted to use oil for dusting purposes on roads abutting their property.

A representative, stated that they had used the recommended calcium chloride treatment called for by the Council last year but that rain had washed the salt away. He also indicated that in other cases the road grader had come along a day or two following an application of calcium chloride and scraped off the surface which had been treated.

Following considerable discussion on the pros and cons of calcium chloride and oil for road treating, the Council decided to hold firm on its stand that calcium chloride and not oil must be used for checking dust on roads.

Before the angry group broke up following the decision, charges of dictatorship and threats to disregard the law and use oil on roads anyway were hurled at the Council.

—The Four Corners Press

LATHRUP — A weed-cutting or cutting and clearing of the weeds and grass must be cut when they average ten inches in height or every three weeks was read before the Council Monday night. At the time Mayor E. Hayes, who prepared the law, said that before the ordinance is adopted, it must go to the State Board of Health for study and recommendations.

It is spelled out in the ordinance that if property owners do not comply within ten days after written notice, their property will be mowed for them and that the owners will be billed by the city for it. If the owner refuses to pay the bill, it will be further enforced, it would become a tax lien on his property.

Any attempt to obstruct enforcement of the ordinance could mean a \$100 fine, 90 days in jail or both, it was pointed out.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

WAYNE — For three special days last week-end, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, merchants featured many giant bargains for the annual "Craze Daze" sale.

The sale, sponsored by the Wayne Chamber of Commerce, drew approximately 500 merchants participating. Giant window displays featuring bargains galore were presented by Chamber of Commerce members in their display windows. The "Craze Daze" annual sale is conducted as a means by which merchants can convey their thanks to Waynites patronizing their local stores during the past year.

—The Wayne Dispatch

PLYMOUTH — An effort to increase the tax base of the City of Plymouth by encouraging more business and industry to locate here and by making existing conditions more desirable was unveiled last week by Mayor Harold Guenther, who announced the appointment of a three-man committee to lead the study.

The committee has been charged with the responsibility of finding a way to increase the tax base (or valuation) of the city, Mayor Guenther said, in order to provide more services without an increase in the tax rate. Mayor Guenther pointed out that the committee will confine its study to the city's two square miles; that no consideration will be given to tax base improvements through annexation.

"In our expanding and inflationary economy with its resulting increase in cost of operating city government and our school system, this city must welcome and encourage all elements of local type business and industry," the mayor declared.

He added that the committee will work with all segments of the community, including the Chamber of Commerce, local business and industry, informal groups and private citizens.

—The Plymouth Mail

In the State of Washington, there's a town named Geare.

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Constitutional Convention Proposal To Be Put To Vote

VOTERS WILL GET A CHANCE in 1958 to rewrite the constitutional which has guided Michigan's state government since 1908. Whether to call a constitutional convention will automatically go on the November, 1958 ballot.

Dozens of major amendments have been made to the constitution in the last 50 years, including state civil service, sales tax distribution, and reappointment of the legislature.

The latter, adopted in 1952, is the crux of a new fight between political parties and will, in effect, determine the makeup of a constitutional convention if the voters order it.

Under another section of the constitution, a convention to write the basic law is composed of three delegates from each state senatorial district.

Democrats already are fighting for another system.

The 1952 amendment created the "balanced legislature," with the House (112 members) representing people or population and the Senate (34 members) representing areas.

Democrats charge that a constitutional convention will be peopled by Republicans because traditionally, outside voters send Republicans to the Senate. Republicans retort that the voters approved the reappointment amendment in 1952, thus tacitly agreeing to the procedure for electing delegates to a constitutional convention.

Despite their hold on the Senate and the makeup of a convention, the Republicans are fearful that any rewrite of the constitution might upset the reappointment process.

Civil service, in effect since 1941, has a growing number of critics, and its champions fear the way Michigan hires its 27,000 employees would be changed.

Both parties agree that the voter has it in his power in 1958 to alter Michigan's government.

There have been numerous proposals in the past, including the adoption of the Nebraska system of a one-chamber legislature. Or a generous convention could legalize

EXAMINING OUR VISIONS

A nation can be only as strong as its people. If its people are weak in the basic character virtues or weak in an understanding of the great values and truths of life, then that nation will be a weak nation and sooner or later it will crumble. A significant "laboratory" study has been made of cross section of American character. The results seem to indicate serious defects in the upbringing of a generation of Americans, from infancy through childhood, and into youthful maturity. The results constitute a challenge to our three great institutions—the home, the school, the church.

The study was made by U. S. Army psychiatrists. It was a study of the actions and reactions of 7,000 American soldiers captured and imprisoned for nearly three years by the Chinese Communists in North Korea. When the results were all in, President Eisenhower and the leaders of our nation's internal security and national defense were so disturbed that a new Code of Conduct for armed services was adopted, and in an unprecedented move it was announced to the nation by the President himself.

Attention Everybody

President Eisenhower said: "This is a statement of first principles which every male and every female in our society should know." Major William E. Mayer, the Army's chief psychiatrist on the Korean prison study, commented on the principles underlying the requirements of the Code: "I think a great many parents and teachers somehow believe that children get such principles by osmosis or simply by being exposed to them in some vague way that doesn't require any direct conscious attention." This is a mistaken belief. The Code demands five attitude requirements:

1. If you're ever captured—resist. Keep alive the spirit of resistance. Your life depends upon it. Three thousand of the 7,000 American prisoners in Korea died. The Army is convinced that an important factor in this amazing death rate was a breakdown in the spirit of resistance. The same breakdown rendered the 4,000 surviving prisoners incredibly non-resistant to their Communist captors. The characteristic which broke down was perseverance.

No One Escaped

2. Try to escape. "This country exists because of an impulse—freedom," Major Mayer emphasized. (Continued on Page 5C)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 19, 1932) Town Hall

An old volume containing a history of Oakland County and every community in it, produced by Carl G. Hogle this week may prove considerably helpful in the Town Hall ownership case to be heard in court in the near future. The book contains references to the Town Hall and the arrangement under which it was built. According to the history book, the site of about 5/8ths of an acre was purchased from Mrs. Cynthia M. Collins for \$800, of which \$500 was subscribed in the village on an indenture to secure the location of a building there. The building was erected in 1870 at a cost of \$4,800. Of this the Masonic Lodge paid \$1,150 for a partial lease of the upper portion of the building. The whole expense incurred by the Township, including the lot cost, was thus \$3,650. Prior to completion of the hall, Township Meetings had been held in various public houses. In another section on the Farmington Masonic Lodge in the book it was pointed out that by paying a share for erection of the Town Hall, the Masonic Lodge was granted a lease on the entire upper floor of the building for a term of 999 years.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 22, 1947) Junk Yards

A resolution to provide for the licensing of junk yards and of places for the dismantling, wrecking and disposing of junk, refuse materials of automobiles and to provide penalties for the violation of the provisions of the resolution was unanimously approved by the Township Board Tuesday evening. Under the provisions of the resolution any person or firm operating a junk business must obtain a license from the Township Board, the fee being \$25 per year. A written application, upon a form obtainable from the Township Clerk, must be made. No individual will be granted a license unless he is a United States citizen and has been a resident of the Township for six months prior to the date of making application. Refusal to grant a license will be made when it is determined the yard may be harmful to the general welfare of inhabitants in the area.

FIVE YEARS AGO (May 22, 1952) Planning Commission

A proposal for the formation of a planning commission for the City of Farmington was made at the City Council meeting Monday night. Although no action was taken, all councilmen were favorable to the proposal. City Manager James Tennant was directed to secure information through the Michigan Municipal League and other governmental agencies as to the organization, authority and responsibility of such a group. It is expected that the information will be available to be discussed at the next regular Council meeting.

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