

Editorial Page

Letter Writing . . .

to the editor on public matters is something we cannot encourage too much. Frankly, we invite it and hope that matters pertaining to Farmington Township and City will be publicly aired when there is reason, or even any misunderstanding about any matter.

Let there be any mistake on the matter, let's review the rules of these letters to the editor. Any letter must be signed by the person who wrote it. The newspaper must know the writer. However, if he feels it necessary to remain anonymous, we will publish the letter with some signature such as "Interested Citizen," or something like that. The writer must still identify himself to the paper, even if his name is not then used with the letter.

Another thing: there are libel laws, and if libel does occur the paper will be sued as well as the writer. So, we cannot print any libelous material.

Beyond that, there sometimes are written and sent to the newspapers some letters which insinuate without proof, which are smart-aleck without fairness, and are really very unfair. These we try to run when possible, hoping the person attacked will answer and try to correct the facts. Some may not be run, if the attack appears too unfair, but it is pretty hard for an editor to decide this.

Our public servants come in for criticism sometimes. Thank goodness, they usually base their actions on facts they can defend, and we hope they will try to answer these. The Enterprise has always wanted to see all sides to a question presented, but cannot always do this alone. So, keep the letters coming. They are the sounding board for public opinion, and the community needs this.

The One-Inch . . .

board is shrinking, or hadn't you noticed? For some months the lumber industry has debated the proper thickness of a finished 1-inch board. There seems to be a general feeling in the trade that the present inch board is too thick and should be thinned down a trifle.

A naive person might jump to the conclusion that a 1-inch board naturally would be 1 inch thick. That is not the case at all where finished lumber is concerned. In fact, for the last 30 years a standard inch board bought from a lumber dealer has been officially twenty-five thirty-seconds of an inch.

Now the American lumber standards committee has decided that inch boards should be only twenty-four thirty-seconds of an inch thick. In other words, one inch equals three-fourths of one inch, under the new specifications.

There are many practical reasons in the milling and lumber trade for adopting the new standard, according to experts. They have presented their recommendations to the department of commerce, which supervises such matters. The department will conduct a survey among interested groups and if they agree, the U. S. government will put its official approval upon the three-quarter inch.

All this is no doubt practical and necessary, but persons ignorant of the technical problems may ask if it wouldn't be simpler just to mark three-quarter inch boards as three-quarter inch boards and let it go at that.

No matter how big and tough a problem may be, get rid of confusion by taking one little step towards solution. Do something. Then try again. At the worst, so long as you don't do it the same way twice, you will eventually use up all the wrong ways of doing it and thus the next will be the right one.

We have an obligation to other people, to our neighbor and to the country. But the man who sits there has lost the purpose of his life before. Please bear in mind we are not pressed for time, but for eternity. God is the sure Taxgatherer. Yet how many refuse to pay tribute to Him.

Political freedom goes hand in hand with religious freedom. Wherever religion is free men can no longer be kept in chains. Religious freedom means liberty for all, with special favors to none.—John S. Bonnell, D.D.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



BIRMINGHAM—With the unanimous approval of Birmingham city officials and the board of education, a teen-age traffic court will soon hand down decrees in cases of traffic violations involving 14 to 19 year olds.

Outlining the plan to the Birmingham city commission Monday night, Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley and Detective Sgt. Robert Schulte said the court would be composed of 20 jurors who would hold court monthly. Schulte would act as an advisory counsel to the court.

It was pointed out that violators would still be permitted to appear before probate court instead of the teen court if they desired. The court should be in operation by October 1, Chief Moxley said. More than 75 future teenage jurors heard the plan Monday night. They were members of Birmingham high's civics classes, which attend several commission meetings at the start of each new school year.

Punishment administered by the teenage court, Schulte explained, may range from requiring violators to write them on safety to suspension of driver's licenses for up to 29 days. If warranted, the court would also have the power to recommend to the state highway department that a license be suspended for longer than 29 days.

If the violator does not like the teenage court's decision he has the right to appeal his case and have it go through probate court in normal fashion, Schulte said.

—The Birmingham Centric

SOUTHFIELD—Harshly criticized for sending its storm water over the easterly boundary into backyards of homes, Southfield will get a new water back if the proposed Eight Mile Road Drain is built. The Oakland County Drain Commission has proposed to set up a special assessment to provide funds to build the project. Construction costs, engineering, financing and interest for the first year add up to an estimated \$160,000.

The drain would be installed on a parallel with the township's southerly boundary about 300 feet north of Eight Mile Road, just inside Oak Park westerly to a point a short distance beyond Berg Road. The drain would pick up sewage, it was pointed out, and the boundaries of the drainage district for assessment purposes are not clear at this time but it appears to vary to the north, possibly to a point between Ten and Eleven Mile roads in the Lathrup area, dropping south at other points to Ten and Nine Mile roads.

In addition to the drain, generally, the proposed drain is said, relieve an unsatisfactory flood situation in the Northland area. Because of an inadequate drainage system, Northland has been compelled to impound its storm water, releasing it slowly into the Oak Park system through the McLean Drain when the rains were over.

Water from the proposed drain would flow into a tributary of the Rouge River.

—The Four Corners Press

PLYMOUTH—The City Commission voted Monday night to conform to its existing policy of not providing any more water taps outside the city limits except where a water main already exists.

The decision came following a detailed study of a lengthy engineering report submitted earlier recommending that the commission "take a long look at its obligations to the taxpayers within the city limits" before supplying water to township areas.

The decision to maintain the former policy will be bad news for the Plymouth Carving Construction Company which already has a plat on file for a new subdivision. It is partly in the city and partly in the township along the eastern boundary of the city. It was their request for water last spring that touched off the commission's desire to have a survey made of the city's water system.

—The Plymouth Mail

WAYNE—A bicycle ordinance designed to protect the property of Village residents has been turned over to the attorney for drafting. The action to establish a bicycle ordinance was taken at the Village Council meeting Tuesday.

The ordinance calls for all bicycles to be registered at a 25-cent fee. Registration will remain in effect until January 1, 1936. After this date it will be required to register bicycles every two years.

Estimates place the number of bicycles in Wayne at 1,500.

—The Wayne Dispatch

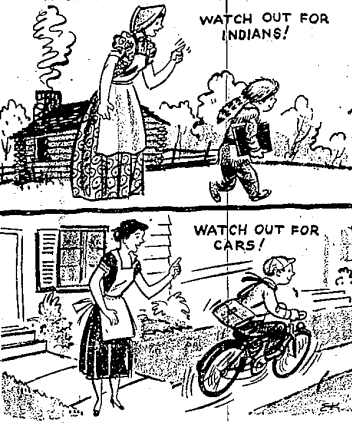
TRAVELER'S AID

The Travelers Aid Society of Detroit, Inc., a Torch Drive service, helped more than 2,000 people solve travel problems last year. Of these 54 per cent were residents of the Detroit metropolitan area. The remainder were people from other places who needed help while in Detroit. The Society is one of more than 100 similar organizations throughout the country, which work together to help travelers in trouble.

Mother's Worries Never End

WATCH OUT FOR INDIANS!

WATCH OUT FOR CARS!



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Policy Change Made For Choosing Republican Governor Candidates

REPUBLICANS ARE LOOKING for a carload of candidates for governor.

The party made motions toward the "Big Switch" at a Mackinac Island rally of leaders originally expected to designate one or two potential candidates.

When the questions came, John B. Martin, Jr., of Grand Rapids—once a Republican auditor general and later candidate for other posts—sized:

"If you mean when are a few men going to select the party's candidate for 1938, never," he snapped.

Martin is the Republican National Committeeman and the organizer of the Mackinac Island meeting. Postmaster Arthur Summerfield did not attend.

Martin's election to the top party organization position was seen as a rebuff to Summerfield's leadership of the past.

Party speculators figure House Speaker George M. Van Puursen, a young Zeeland lawyer, might be the choice to run against the Democrat. Everybody is convinced it will be Gov. Williams.

Rep. George Sallade, of Ann Arbor, is an announced hopeful. There are others, none of whom have gotten enough of a nod to rise above the others.

Van Puursen was handed a summer speaking tour on behalf of the Republican legislature. He turned the job over to others when his voice gave out, and the campaign has been quieter since.

Williams, meantime, has the advantage of incumbency and the element of surprise working for him. He doesn't have to announce what he's going to do next year. But bets now are that Williams will go for another term as governor, with Lt. Gov. Philip A. Hart opposing Senator Charles Potter for the U. S. Senate.

Potter, whose strength next year will depend, in part, on the

LOOKING AHEAD

by Dr. George A. Bennett
SPECIAL ROOM
READING ROOM
BOSTON, MASS.



REPORT FROM FRANCE
PARIS, FRANCE—Dear Dr. Benson: I have seen Paris—decked out in all the breathtaking splendor with which she charms her millions of casual visitors, and also in the unflattering reality of her workaday life. I have tried to measure the pulsebeat of 1937 France by watching the people working and idling, by examining the makeup of her government, by talking to some of the nation's most serious thinkers, and by living for awhile in the homes and experiencing the personal problems of wage earners, salaried and self-employed people. The pulsebeat is weak.

By American economic standards—and using particularly our American standards of values—most of the people of Paris and of France are poor. The actions of France's Socialist-led governments during the last 25 years have helped to dissipate the foundations of national strength and pull down the economic potential of this nation of 43,000,000 people. The effect on the people themselves is significant. One of the keenest students of political and economic affairs in France, an officer in World War II, a Frenchman of unquestioned patriotism, told me:

Immediate Enjoyment

"There has evolved in France a generation of French people with two immediate obsessions in life: (1) food and wine; and (2) personal, immediate enjoyment. These two impelling desires have blanketed out in France, at least for the time being, the basic desires of past generations of Frenchmen—for home ownership and family living with its old values, and for self-made security.

Chief factors in the creation of this situation are the subsistence "security" which France's Welfare State government "guarantees" to all citizens, and the atmosphere of governmental crisis which has continued unabated since the end of the war. Although most Frenchmen are aware that it affords only a starvation "security," the various programs of Government welfare, including old age payments have been big factors in building up a philosophy which seems to say: "Spend, eat, drink and be merry, for when we're broke and 65 the Government will take care of us." People with this attitude, my French friend observed sadly, aren't contributing much to the strength and future of a nation.

Everything Shaky

As I write this dispatch, another Premier is trying to form another French Government and cope with another acute eruption of the chronic French financial crisis. This will be the 22d government created since the end of the war. It may last a year or a week. No.

(Continued on Page 6C)

Michigan Bell Telephone Co. has asked for a re-hearing of its original request for a \$125,000,000 boost, after the commission approved \$23,835,000 several weeks ago.

William M. Day, company president, (Continued on Page 3C)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (September 22, 1932)
Drain Taxes

Farmington Township will join with other townships, Oakland County, and assessed taxpayers in questioning the validity of drains built in recent years under the supervision of the County Drain Commission. It is hoped to establish the invalidity of the projects and relieve property owners of paying any further taxes for these drains. The move has its inception some time ago following a ruling on the Southfield Drain case in which it was established that the County Drain Commission had no right to build anything other than open drains. Officials and property owners in the southern portion of the county, where numerous drains that are actually sewers have been built, are uniting in the action to have the drain projects declared illegal. The Hazel and Clareville drains are involved in Farmington Township. Both have been built for some years and are located in the south corner of the township.

TEN YEARS AGO (September 25, 1947)
Unlicensed Dog

A check on the number of dog licenses that have been issued in the City of Farmington this year clearly shows that about the best way Farmington dog owners can mark National Dog Week, which is being observed this week, is to get a license for their family pet. To date, only 100 dog licenses have been sold in the city and that number is estimated to be less than half of the number of dogs that should now be licensed for the current year. Licenses may be obtained at the office of City Treasurer, this year.

Farmington's Fire Department was called to the Town Hall Tuesday evening at about 10:45 on a report of a fire in the basement. However, the fire was confined to a small can of rubbish which was removed from the building before the firemen arrived. Aside from considerable smoke, no damage was done.

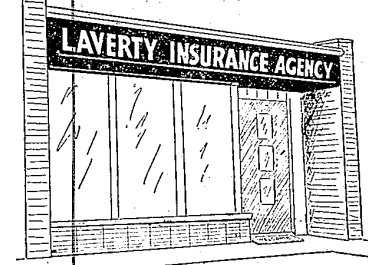
FIVE YEARS AGO (September 25, 1952)
Federal Aid

The Clareville School District will receive a total of \$191,587 in Federal aid for the construction of a new seven-classroom elementary school, Superintendent Louis Schmidt disclosed Tuesday. Detailed plans are now being drafted by the architect and will be submitted to the Board for approval in the next few weeks. Schmidt stated that the new seven room school will be built on Osmus Street south of Junction in Farmington Township. In addition to the classrooms, there will be a kitchen, teachers' room and auxiliary rooms plus a kindergarden room in the building.

Sell School Notes


Approval has been granted by the Michigan Finance Commission to the Farmington Township School District for the sale of \$71,000 in tax anticipation notes to meet current operating expenses, Superintendent O. E. Dunkel announced this week. The notes will bear interest at a rate not to exceed three per cent per annum. The notes will be awarded to the bidder whose bid produces the lowest interest cost to the School District. The sale of the notes was deemed necessary when Farmington received only \$20,000 of the \$66,000 State Aid funds anticipated.

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