

In Our Opinion . . .

How Far Does Our Pride Extend?

It was with a considerable amount of disappointment that we reported last week Farmington Township voters' rejection of the library proposal that would have permitted expansion and improvement of the community's very much inadequate public library system.

We can understand quite well how older citizens on low fixed incomes living in the township would reject this proposition. Likewise we can understand how the citizens in a few sections of the township where the average family income is quite low might reject any proposal that would increase their total tax bills any amount at all over what they now run.

But, the fact of the matter is that the number of citizens living in the township on low fixed incomes and those in the few below average income areas that we have made up a minority of the township's total population.

The statistics say that on an overall basis Farmington Township homeowners have an above average annual income compared with the entire Detroit metropolitan area or all of Oakland County. Statistics also show that we have an above average of two and three car families and owners of freezers, etc., etc., etc.

Real pride in this above average income classification has been expressed time and time again by citizens of the township both at public meetings and at private gatherings we have attended. Does this pride extend only as far as one's personal possessions?

Usually people who live in above average income areas such as ours also want to have a better than average school system and better than average governmental buildings and churches and all the other things that mark the com-

munity as above average. It would also be logical to assume that this would include at least an average or slightly above average public library system which we definitely do not have at this time.

When one looks at what it would have cost a family having a home with even a \$5,000 market value or \$12,500 state equalized valuation for tax levying purposes, it is hard to understand how the majority of the township's voters could have rejected the library expansion proposition. The cost for the \$25,000 homeowner would have run less than \$9.50 in additional taxes annually for the next ten years.

A point made to us by at least three or four different parents in the community is one that we feel deserves very careful consideration should a library expansion millage proposition come up again. They have pointed out that on several occasions they have found it necessary to drive to Birmingham, Detroit, Livonia or elsewhere to get a book or reference material for their boys and girls in school and that when they figure out the amount they spent on gas and oil for their cars plus a very modest amount for their time in going these longer distances to get such materials the cost to them was substantially more.

Even those who don't have children in school must have a desire to read at least three or four good books a year. They just can't be obtained when we allow our community's library officials only a token amount of money to run a public library system for us.

Where is our pride in being an above average area community? Does it extend only as far as our own property lines or the boundaries of the subdivision we live in?

A Gracious Acceptance of Defeat

The thing that distinguishes a real politician, or for that matter anyone in the public limelight, is the character to be able to accept defeat or admit a mistake graciously.

Democratic Ed McNamara of Livonia, unsuccessful candidate for the 14th District State Senate seat, has a lot of our respect for he is a man with these qualities.

We did not endorse McNamara for election over Farrell Roberts and he knew it. The Farmington Enterprise did not agree with him in his feeling that a progressive income tax rather than a flat rate state income tax would be the best in a state fiscal reform package. We disagreed with him on a couple of other points as well.

But, McNamara did not call up after the election blaming The Farmington Enterprise and other newspapers in the district who did not support him for election for his defeat. He called instead to say thanks for space given him in the paper for his news releases during the campaign. And, when it was rather certain Monday night that Roberts had defeated him we went directly to Roberts' campaign headquarters in

Farmington with a forced smile on his face and congratulated Roberts on his victory.

Meeting McNamara during the campaigning to talk with him for the first time we were very favorably impressed with him. We are still very favorably impressed and feel that he is a credit to the political arena and the Democratic party.

Far too often in politics today, defeated candidates lash out at those who did not support them or voice opinions contrary to their's during their campaigning for an office. They look for someone to blame because the voters decided against them and sometimes even make threats of personal retaliation against individuals or groups that endorsed or supported their opposition. There is probably not a man or woman today who has been engaged in any kind of athletic event whether it be way back in high school, in college or in present day adult life who hasn't heard the statement: "Play the game hard but accept defeat as a good sportsman."

In our opinion, this same rule or code should apply in the political arena.

Looking Back in the Files

5 YEARS AGO

APRIL 14, 1960
Honor Society
A total of 22 graduating seniors at Farmington High School were formally inducted into the FHS Chapter of the National Honor Society at an assembly program this week.

New Schools
Architects are now studying "working drawings" of the proposed North Farmington High School. The combination junior and senior high building and a six-room addition at the Woodale Elementary School. Preliminary plans for both projects were approved by the School Board at its regular meeting Monday night.

Top Bowling Team
Going into the stretch run of the Farmington Civic League bowling season, the Farmington Dairy team holds a slim 1 1/2 point margin over second place contenders Clappison-Conroy Insurance.

FHS Track Team
The Farmington High School track team has set for the behind Livonia Bentley in a triangular Track Meet this week. School was approved by action Clarenceville High School's thincalcs finished third.

10 YEARS AGO

APRIL 14, 1955
Elected Mayor

At an organizational meeting of the City Council on Monday night, Robert Lindbergh was elected Mayor of Farmington by fellow councilmen. Councilman V. O. Bates was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

Trash Pick-Ups
The Farmington Township Board unanimously passed a resolution this week authorizing trash pick-ups in the Township every two months. The new schedule will be put into effect as soon as possible.

Home Building
A total of 69 new home building permits were issued for the first quarter in Farmington Township while for the same three-month period the City of Farmington issued a total of 38 home building permits.

Road Budget
An allocation of \$50,000 in the Farmington Township budget for the coming year behind Livonia Bentley in a triangular Track Meet this week. School was approved by action Clarenceville High School's thincalcs finished third.

15 YEARS AGO

APRIL 13, 1950
Baseball Captain

The Farmington High School baseball team this year will be captained by Lou Tyler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elliot B. Tyler of Valleyview. Tyler is a several letterman and also has been a member of the basketball and football teams.

Building Code Vote
The Farmington Township Clerk, Harry McConville, estimates that "around 3,000" Township residents are eligible to vote in Monday's special referendum election on the Township's Building Code Ordinance.

Speaker System
Farmington City Police Chief Joseph E. DeVriendt stated this week the newly installed public address speaker system in the City Police cruiser has not been used enough to deter its future usefulness in crowd control situations.

Falcon Thincalcs
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Public Letterbox

Laments Taps-Ins In Dry Area

Dear Editor,

We live in the part of Farmington that has been referred to as the "Sahara" or "dry area" of Farmington because of the impossibility of being able to obtain an adequate well. Being long time residents (18-plus years) without an adequate water supply, we were very happy last spring when the diggers started installing water lines in our area.

Credits Enterprise

To The Farmington Enterprise Dear Mrs. Woods:

On behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of the Clarenceville School District, I wish to express our appreciation for your assistance in promoting information to the voters of our district about our recent Special Election. Your publishing of the many facts and figures and clear method of presentation was a valuable part of the overall campaign.

It is our hope that such a continued pleasant working relationship will remain a part of our school-community relations. With the schools offering a natural source of news interest, and the newspapers seeking news to promote their community service, it seems that a natural combination is without question. Each area has important help to offer the other.

Once again thank you for your very able assistance. Also, when you go to look on your new printing process and set up, your forward looking ideas are symbolic of your progress and desire to serve the community.

Sincerely,
Harold W. Keivit,
Director of I.M.C.



Lt. R. Cregar Wins Medal

First Lt. Richard E. Cregar of 28620 Aranel in Farmington has been named recipient of the coveted Distinguished Rifleman Medal, the highest marksmanship award in the Armed Forces.

Lt. Cregar received his medal from Brig. Gen. Robert R. Owen in recent ceremonies before Division Headquarters personnel.

"In 30 years this is only the third Distinguished Rifleman Medal I've seen," Gen. Owen commented, "and it's the first one I've personally presented."

Lt. Cregar received congratulatory communications from Maj. Gen. Stanley W. Connolly, Division Commander; Maj. Gen. John R. Pugh, IV Corps Commander, and Lt. Gen. G. Dodge, Fifth Army Commander.

"The Distinguished Rifleman Medal is won only through intense training, perseverance and outstanding performance in competition with the most skilled marksmen of the nation," Gen. Dodge wrote. "I encourage you in the following years to impart to your fellow soldiers the knowledge and experience you have gained."

Lt. Cregar is married and the father of two children. Lt. Cregar's reserve assignment with the 70th Division is Aide de Camp to Brig. Gen. Owen, assistant Division Commander.

We were promised water by June, 1963, then by August, then by September.

Well finally in November the lines were completed and the water was tested and OK'd. In September we had our own line installed from our plumbing man to the lot line and waited expectantly for the taps-ins to begin. Finally in January they started the taps-ins several streets over from us. Good, we thought, it would be long now! No more carrying water!

FEBRUARY CAME. The digging crew had disappeared. Where were they? A call to the water board. The crew had been called away on a main break. March came. Still no crew. Where were they? Another call to the water board. "The weather was too bad" — "too much water" — "ground frozen"; these were the excuses we heard all through February and March. The weather hasn't changed much, the ground is still frozen, the water is still not draining away properly. Yet, last Saturday, March 27, they came in and tapped-in one of the houses on our street. Oh happy day, we thought, now we'll get our water! But no, they left right after!

MONDAY MORNING they were back on our street tapping in another neighbor. Good, we thought, now they will do ours! But no, there they go again! What is this? They had told us when we called that they couldn't do isolated houses even if we were carrying all of our water. Another call to the water board—same old excuses. A call to the Township hall, a talk with Mr. Cairns, who said he'd look into it. Each day another call to the water board.

Finally on Wednesday we called the Enterprise and talked to the Editor.

WE REALLY DON'T know what did the trick, but in and behold! Thursday morning they were digging to tap-in our line!

We have our water now and are very happy about it, but we started thinking of all the other people in our neighborhood who don't have their water yet. We waited six months from the time we obtained our permit. We understand many have waited much longer.

We would like to pose a few pertinent questions: Why should it take so long to do a few hundred taps-ins? Why could they do ours now despite the water, the frozen ground and the weather? These apparently are just excuses.

To our neighbors who are still waiting, we'd like to say, start suiting every day if necessary. If enough people call the water board (MA. 6-4575), the township offices (474-9115), and the Enterprise (GR. 4-6225) maybe they will get on the ball and finish up the taps-ins here.

I've had my say. Thank you. Sincerely,
Mrs. Kenneth Soper
34075 Kirby
Farmington, Mich.

Elect CMU Coed Senior Secretary

Lynn Chamberlain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Chamberlain of 24475 Dohany Drive, has been elected secretary of her senior class at Central Michigan University at Mt. Pleasant.

Miss Chamberlain is a 1962 graduate of Farmington Senior High School. A CMU she is an English major and a member of Delta Zeta social sorority and the Student Senate.

Pledges Fraternity At Miami University

Ralph C. Polley, 26400 Brandynow Road, has pledged Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

A freshman at Miami, Ralph is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph S. Polley.



REPORT from LANSING

State Representative

Raymond L. Baker

A brief change of direction was experienced in Lansing recently as the Legislature gave its attention to a revenue proposal instead of continual concentration on new and increased spending.

The revenue bill under consideration was the so-called "eschats bill" which will permit the state to tap certain unclaimed funds under the bill's provisions the state could collect wages, traveler's checks, insurance policies and rebates by public utilities which are unclaimed after a seven year waiting period. Originally adopted by the Senate, the measure was passed unanimously in the House and was given immediate effect.

ALTHOUGH FAR FROM being anything close to true fiscal reform, the bill is expected to bring in \$30 to \$40 million during the next two years according to some sources. We were also told that eventually the revenue would taper off to about \$3 to \$4 million annually. The nature of this type of revenue makes it difficult to pinpoint actual dollar amounts and several varying estimates exist. However, for many the consideration and passage of this bill came as a welcome relief from the discussion of spending proposals without knowledge of revenue sources.

IN OTHER RECENT ACTION, the detector tests came under consideration in the House. Debate centered around a bill which would outlaw the use of detectors as a condition of employment, continued employment or advancement. Sponsors of the measure argued that the tests were an invasion of privacy and generally unreliable. Amendments were offered to exclude certain employers from the prohibition. Specifically it was argued that police departments and any other employers who deal with public security matters ought to be able to use the detector tests in connection with the employment of personnel. Another amendment would have forbidden labor unions to use such tests as a condition of membership. Both of these amendments were defeated and the bill was sent to the Senate on a vote of 74 to 28.

EVERY YEAR ABOUT this time it becomes necessary for us to consider supplemental appropriations for state agencies whose appropriations for this fiscal year turned out to be inadequate. This year it appears as though the supplemental bill will come close to \$7 million. Included in this bill is an additional allocation for the operation of the Legislature caused mainly by the enlargement and improvement of legislative facilities and staff.

While there is general agreement among legislators and students of the Legislature

More than \$208,000 was spent last year by private companies and the State Highway Department to construct fire breaks and clean up burnable debris along railways, power lines, and roads;

Timber operators accounted for only \$300 in forest fire damages to personal property in Michigan during 1964.

Twp. Police Nab Trio In Thefts

Three Detroit men were convicted this week in Farmington Township Justice Court on reduced charges of malicious destruction of property on charges stemming from two school breaking and enterings recently.

The trio, George Saris, 20, of 7734 Archdale, Larry Stroems, 20, of 8416 Heyden and John B. Sundling, 22, of 11697 St. Mary's, admitted breaking into both the Shawnesee and the Middlebelt schools in Farmington. They were ordered to serve the first 60 days of a two-year probation sentence in the Oakland County Jail and make \$30 restitution each to the schools.

Stroems has charges of breaking and entering pending against him in Wayne County. The trio admitted taking a movie projector and adding machine from the Middlebelt School.

EASTER SUNDAY is a family day

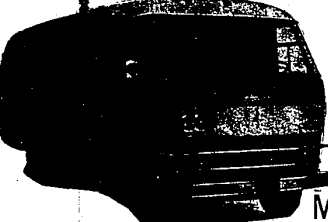
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