

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper.

Favors Expansion of Industrial Arts Dept.

TO THE EDITOR:

Your letter from James R. Barclay concerning the proposed expansion of industrial education facilities in the Farmington school system prompts this reply. While there is much he says with which I agree, there is much more with which I find myself in disagreement.

Let me state that in my opinion Mr. Barclay has ably and sincerely presented a point of view not uncommon in so-called academic circles. By so doing he has rendered a public service to the citizens of this community. There is an issue here which should be resolved. It is not only local in its implications, but national as well and it is a tough one.

Let us first face the fact that the Farmington school system is a public school system, required by law to accept all comers up to the age of sixteen, and that the type of education offered here will, over a period of time, reflect what the public wants. Does the public want high enough academic standards to make college entrance feasible for those who have the necessary intellectual and financial resources? Surely!

In almost thirty years of experience in industrial education, I have yet to encounter the opposite view from my associates. Contrarily, most shop men complain that they are not sufficiently well grounded in the traditional mathematics, science and English; that where there is knowledge there is lack of ability to apply it. This knowledge to the problems one encounters in the shop and drafting room.

The problem as I see it is to raise standards in the academic subjects and to provide abundant opportunity for the application of learned principles. I think I could demonstrate, even to Mr. Barclay's satisfaction, that it is possible to base such a horrendous (in a boy's mind) subject as trigonometry on a prosaic thing like a mechanical milling machine. The boy might even develop some understanding of what this obtuse stuff he has been slaving over is for.

I take issue with those who believe that thinking takes place only in the realm of the more traditional forms of learning. For example, Mr. Barclay's statement that "the boy of the simplest nature, is usually solved through the media of pencil and paper. The shop problem uses these media and more; materials, tools, instruments and machines. If it is mental exercise that you want, try building a model yacht some time."

Now as to the thoughts of industry concerning these matters as set forth by the Institute for Economic Education. I have not read this report, but rather from Mr. Barclay's statement that industry "encouraged exposure to industrial process but advocated that the specific course training belongs to industry." What is meant by "specific training"? There's the rub! My cite from personal experience.

During the war industry in this area, in common with other large industrial centers, was confronted with a terrific manpower conversion problem. Your operator on the motor line was asked to become a machine gunner; the assembly line worker was asked to become an aircraft riveter etc., etc. I agree with Mr. Barclay that in peace time this type of training is not the responsibility of industry. But what actually happened was this: Industrial education people in our large industrial areas were granted leaves of absence from the public school system in large numbers for the specific purpose of initiating and operating many of the training programs. Even your most "specific" types of training, therefore, became the joint responsibility of industry and the public schools.

I do not note in the proposed offerings anything of a nature which might be termed "specific" in the sense just outlined. Rather it is an attempt to diversify the drafting offered in accordance with the industrial picture of this area. For drafting, the number of classes scheduled would likely be increased anyhow whether the old plan or the new plan is followed. Shop Math would require the use of a classroom the same as any other class and I can see no loss of space here. Machine Woodworking and Building Construction might be regarded by many as not a particular wise choice, unless, of course, it is taken of the fact that the metal industries still employ large numbers of model builders, pattern makers and other classifications working primarily in wood. When the significant upturn in the building industry over the past decade is considered, not to mention the boom in boat building hereabouts, the inclusion of these two subjects seems sensible. A course in boat building alone would of course be too specific for the average high school program in this area. General Shop, traditionally, the beginning shop course in many Michigan communities, is one of the most inexpensive forms of shop work which can

be set up and is just the opposite of specific.

"Academic Metals" will prove more costly if the machine shop type of organization is indicated by the term. It is general in nature as it applies to a variety of fields - tool making, die making, tool and die design machine repair, metal pattern making, etc.

As Mr. Barclay suggests in his concluding paragraph, public interest should be aroused in the matter of curriculum. As a citizen I am interested in the curriculum, not only as it applies to my own field, but to the needs of the individual, in so far as these can be determined, at a relatively early age. With respect to potential college material there is very little free choice. Certain units are prescribed in the fields of Math, Science, Language, Social Studies, and English. You take these subjects or you don't go to college. It is thought, and I believe with justice, that these subjects have value in forming the individual as a well rounded citizen of the community, whether he goes to college or not. Nevertheless, this type of curriculum is, in my opinion, slanted in favor of the colleges and universities and largely controlled by them through such agencies as the North Central Association.

But the fact remains that even in a community as advanced as Farmington, the larger percentage of our boys and girls find graduation from high school terminal. The parents of these boys and girls are taxpayers and citizens just like the parents of the child who graduates from college. I think it is fair to give a scholarship to Harvard or Yale or the University of Michigan. Does this community want to take the position that an excellent program designed largely to expedite college entrance is also the right program for around 65 percent of our graduates who do not enter college? Personally, I do not believe it.

Farmington lies in one of the largest industrial centers of the world. It might be revealing to know how many of the fathers in this area work in the following classifications: tool maker, tool designer, craftsman, engineer, architect for industry, superintendent of one of other jobs, in both major and minor capacities.

Lets take a look at our neighbor, The Detroit High School with which I am most familiar is, naturally, the one in which I work. Here are some enrollment figures in the round:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Total Enrollment | 4,000 |
| Drafting Students | 1,500 |
| Shop Students | 1,000 |

Boys are encouraged to take Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry and Physics along with their shop and drafting, but provision is made for those who are unable to handle these subjects by having such courses as Shop Math, Physical Science and Electronics available. Boys are encouraged to work and drafting every semester for a year and many do. Should we not ask ourselves, "Is Farmington youth being given a fair competitive break along these lines?"

Sincerely,
E. J. Wulfman
23975 Gil Road

West Farmington
MRS. SARAH KNAPP

Fred Skinner, brother of Walter Skinner, and a resident on 13 Mile Road, was taken very ill recently and is now confined at Veterans Hospital in Mt. Clemens.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin were in Hartland last week to see Mrs. Irvin's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Giegler.

The Southern Michigan Growers Association met at the West Bloomfield Town Hall for a business meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heliker spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Starr Heliker and children.

Birmingham Girl Injured In 3-Car Crash

A Birmingham girl, Rayetta Posnick, was injured a week ago Sunday when the car in which she was traveling with Adams Denny, Jr., a 20-year-old student, crashed into the rear of a second car operated by Robert E. Brooks of 22745 Power Road. Brooks was stopped on Grand River when he was making a left hand turn onto Orchard Lake.

After hitting the Brooks' auto, Denny's car spun around and smashed into a third car in the parking lot at Wanda's Restaurant owned by Willis R. Kirby of 20741 Tuck Road.

Miss Posnick was taken to Mt. Carmel Hospital suffering from cuts under one eye and body bruises.

John Clappison, 43511

What's Happening in Your Township

By FRANK STEPHENSON
Township Supervisor

Last week we attended, with Howard Wiest of the Township Planning Board, two sessions of the 8th annual Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building, Detroit.

We can truthfully report that Farmington Township, through our Planning Board, is considerably ahead of many other communities planning wise. We were able to take part in several panel discussions and our members were able to point out the fact that our township has completed its land use study on Residential, Commercial and Industrial. Mr. Wiest will give a more detailed report in the very near future.

At the March 4 session of the Board of Review, we had 28 taxpayers appealing their assessments. Included in this number was a land developer and builder who owns 100 acres or so and who was assessed at \$450 per acre. The assessed price is approximately \$3,000. This man feels he is overcharged. Last week we received over 100 road complaints. We turned them over to the Oakland County Road Commission as they were received at this office.

Many complainants mentioned the fact that they were informed by Road Commission officials and others that this office was responsible as to the allocation of gravel and the priority of certain streets. This, of course, is the truth and not the first time we were badly hit below the belt.

The same tactics were used when citizens received their 1957 tax bills. Many people who had paid their taxes on time and others that our tax rolls would be assessed after a hurried visual appraisal were not even notified of the increase evaluation, in order that they might appear before the 1957 session of the Board of Review. We took office in April, 1957 and immediately hired additional help for the assessors' office in order that our tax rolls would be accurate and should show equity throughout the township. We also notified all citizens that were affected with an increase in their taxes before the 1957 Board of Review to discuss their particular assessment.

We extend an invitation to all citizens of our township to attend the next session of the Board of Review in the Farmington Senior High School on Shawwassee at 1:00 p.m. There you will be given the opportunity to ask a question on any phase of township government and get the right answer.

Abraham Lincoln once said "Let the people know the truth and the Country is safe." The following units of government have been invited to send a representative to our annual meeting:

- State Tax Commission, State Highway Commission, County Equalization Committee, Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission, Oakland County Road Commission, including Traffic Dept., Oakland County Dog Warden, Oakland County Social Welfare Dept., Oakland County Dept. of Public Works, Farmington Township School Board, Township Planning Board, Township Zoning Board, Township Zoning Board of Appeals, Township Assessor, Township Building Inspection Dept., Township Police Dept., Township Fire Dept., Township Certified Public Accountant, Township Health Dept. including Mr. McCredy, Township Justice of the Peace, Township Civil Defense and Township Safety Council.

Free coffee and doughnuts will be served during a 30-minute recess. This promises to be the greatest annual meeting in the history of Farmington Township. Come and see democracy in action!

List of County Births Released

- A list of children born to Farmington couples in Oakland County recorded in the County Clerk's office was released recently. The list follows. Only the father's name is used.
- Charles E. Taitton, 20832 Tuck.
 - George J. Vidu, 28222 Kirkside.
 - Bernard Stein, 30900 Orchard Lake.
 - John T. Sterling, 34845 W. 9 Mile.
 - Frederick D. Stevens, 32317 W. 11 Mile.
 - Kenneth E. Sharp, 22660 Middlebelt.
 - John B. Pierce, 32290 Briarcrest.
 - Richard E. Palmer, 34107 Oakland.
 - Thomas R. Phillips, 21708 Jefferson.
 - Paul M. Morgan, 22660 Middlebelt.
 - Albert L. Moran, 22741 Middlebelt.
 - Arthur A. Orofino, 25250 Pimlico.
 - Thomas W. O'Hara, 29709 Shawwassee.
 - Richard T. Kingman, 22660 Middlebelt.
 - Harmon J. Fischer, 22400 Floral (twins).
 - Robert J. Ash, 34321 Coilex.
 - Ralph N. Bartholomew, 30555 11 Mile.
 - Albert H. Cook, 21220 Waldron.
- Something of a person's character may be discovered by observing how he smiles. Some people never smile - they only grin.
- C. S. Boyce

Along The Creek In Woodcreek

ANNE M. PHILIPS
MA. 6-6335

The Wrights, Agnes and Philo, got back February 24 from five wonderful weeks in Florida. They stayed with friends, the Arthur Wamblickers, who have a home on Anna Marie Island in the Gulf of Mexico, also a home in Dearborn, but who spend all but the summer months down there.

There was no swimming or sunning on the beach during the weeks they were there. The weather was very, very cold when the thermometer got down to 25 degrees. But with their friends they spent two days in Miami, drove down the Tamiami Trail through the Everglades and had ten days at Big Pine Key where they went deep sea fishing. Agnes caught a 51 pound red snapper at about three o'clock in the afternoon and at seven they were enjoying a very delicious dinner.

Of course, Agnes shopped all along the way, jewelry, miscellaneous knick knacks and, at Lido Beach, some very lovely baskets. They flew back, stopping in St. Louis for a few days with Philo's mother and father.

Bill Wright is another of our ardent skiers, spending every good week-end with Don Thomas, of the Thomas Ski Shop, in Farmington, at Thunder Mountain near Boyne.

How many heard the Falconaires sing on their radio program on WJXL, Royal Oak, a week ago Saturday at 12:30? Bill Scott, Jr., was one of the twelve voices selected from the Farmington Schools for this choral group. Margie Lam was their accompanist.

Bill was also the guest soloist for the DeMolay installation February 26 at Wyandotte. The program was devoted to mothers so he sang the song, "Mother." Margie Lam accompanied him.

The Lams had a most interesting dinner on Saturday night, entertaining Dr. and Mrs. Carlos Mota of Mexico; Dr. and Mrs. Louis Tomatis, Dr. and Mrs. Armand Elias Costa from Argentina. These doctors are training at the Henry Ford Hospital. Drs. Caprora and Dial, Dr. and Mrs. Ayaya are visiting from Argentina and were included in this international gathering.

The Men's Association met February 27 at the Cardinals. A considerable time was again given to discussing police protection for the Village. The Women's Association met March 4 at Ida Jensen's. Vi Foster and Nancy Spillman were co-hostesses. About twenty-five were present and we attended to our usual business of sewing cancer pads.

The McDonalds timed their Florida visit to coincide with that of Mary's parents. They have just returned from three weeks in Melbourne. They swam but twice, as the temperature was in the fifties most of the time, but they did have some good fishing. The vacation was saddened by the death of Mary's grandfather in Iowa, but her parents were happy that they had visited him en route to Florida.

Mary Weedon has been very busy lately with birthday parties. Pam had her February 13; when she was ten. Nancy and Scott celebrated their birthdays. Nancy was seven on the 10th of this month and Scott three.

Mary is an enthusiastic bowler, playing with a group of 16 women from Birmingham and Detroit. On February 28 she had the whole group out to her house for a party following their exercise at Rolwille Alleys on Furman.

Last Sunday evening the Weavers had the Franklin Community Church Discussion Group at their home. This group meets monthly to discuss a subject which the host feels is of particular current interest. This time it was on nature.

It should be as easy to expel an obnoxious thought from your mind as to shake a shoe.

The electronics business is comprised of some 500 big and little manufacturers, which are supplied by 3,000 to 4,000 parts and component makers.

What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child that must the community want for all its children.

Edward Carpenter

—John Dewey

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—Barry Sullivan.

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