

# Editorial Page

## The Point System . . .

For bad auto drivers may help some in removing them from the road, if the legislature goes ahead with the plan and makes it law. It seems to have some virtues.

We have to wonder if it might not have helped some in last week's tragedy after which a 22-year-old man with a record of reckless driving confessed his car was responsible for the hit-and-run death of a 14-year-old girl.

His driving record was revealed in full soon after his confession. It was pretty bad, and not many people will contend he should not have been kept off the road for a long, long time.

Only trouble is, fairly often drivers who have lost their licenses continue to drive. If they don't have an accident, it seems they can get away with this quite easily.

We think there should be another change in the law. Anyone who has lost his driver's license for any reason whatsoever, if he is caught driving a car during that period, whether or not there is an accident, that driver should get a mandatory prison sentence of at least five years. And our soft judges shouldn't be allowed any discretion in commuting that sentence, either.

That, with the proposed point system for varying kinds of convictions, might finally put a reasonable yet firm curb on the reckless driver.

## Juvenile Delinquents . . .

might be rehabilitated in a much better manner, if an idea proposed by Oakland County Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore were carried out. He recently outlined the plan at a meeting in Pontiac before representatives of 25 county police departments. Township Police Chief Yakes thinks well of the plan.

Apparently, basis for his idea is the fact that sixteen boys from the County Juvenile Home have been working at Camp Oakland, somewhat as boys used to in the Civilian Conservation Corps camps of depression days.

To carry the idea further, Judge Moore thinks juveniles could receive corrective and rehabilitation work in the state's three million acres of forest, camps and parks.

It's an idea worth investigating, and quite possibly would cost little more, if any, than present methods. Results would benefit not only the young men, which is most important, but would help a little with maintenance of the many parks that so many Michiganders use.

## The Fire Siren . . .

has blown very often the last couple of weeks, especially week ends when someone is working around the yard. These grass fires are quite expensive.

Did you notice that on a recent week end there had been 37 fires? Township officials estimate they cost from \$25 to \$50 each, on the average. Even at the \$25 figure, that would mean a cost of \$925 for that week end. That's costing township taxpayers much more than it should.

Members of the township board recently said they intended to look into a new ordinance which might make it tougher on offenders. Sure, they are supposed to get permits. But if an offender doesn't get a permit, then swears he didn't start the grass fire, and if no neighbor has the courage to swear that the offending property owner was responsible—how far could the authorities get in penalizing those who undoubtedly should be punished?

The abundant life of which we have heard so much recently does not come to those who have all obstacles removed from their paths by others. It develops from within and is rooted in strong mental and moral fiber. To look to government to supply all material safeguards is to sound the doom of the great American tradition. If America is to go forward, we must develop in our colleges ideals of courage, industry and independence.

—Dr. Wm. Lewis

## The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**SOUTHFIELD** — A total of 33 candidates have filed petitions for the 12 city offices to be voted upon April 21. The only unopposed candidate is Clara Lane for treasurer.

A last minute filing spree brought the total number of candidates, four for mayor, 29 for seven council seats, three for three for municipal judge and two for associate municipal judge.

Appearing at the township office on the last day of registration were 18 electors to bring total registration for the charter vote to approximately 7,200 of a potential 12,500.

The charter, recently submitted to the governor complete with all charter commissioner signatures except that of Philip A. Maloney has been approved without recommended change and returned to the commission.

—The Four Corners Press

**NOVI** — Novi will soon go to court again — this time to block further dumping on a farm near Willowbrook Village.

The Township board unanimously decided to fight court injunction ordering Novi not to interfere with a land fill operation on Silver Farm near 10 Mile and Meadowbrook Roads.

The decision was made even though the township board's own attorney said they would "probably lose" the case and the farm owner has threatened to sue for damages (possibly as much as \$75,000) if the board continues to interfere.

The board's decision was greeted with open arms by Willowbrook residents who have been complaining for the last two months that the dumping is a nuisance and a health hazard. Some residents have even volunteered to testify in court in the fight to stop the dumping.

—The Novi News

**PLYMOUTH** — It has been nearly five years since oil and gas fever hit the Plymouth area and some of it still lingers, especially in the form of abandoned holes a few hundred yards away.

A well which is producing both oil and gas has been completed on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad property northwest of the railroad yards. Last week the drilling equipment was moved from the well to an abandoned hole a few hundred yards away.

Oil and Gas News reported last week that the well is producing 5,827 barrels of oil a day. Two large tanks have been erected at the site. It was indicated that the well is producing more gas than oil, however.

The rig is now being set up over a hole abandoned several months ago at 4,214 feet. When abandoned, the drilling showed signs of gas but lacked commercial promise.

The C & O well is in what is designated as the Northville field. During February the well produced 5,827 barrels of oil.

—The Plymouth Mail

**BIRMINGHAM** — The city commission endorsed the Michigan Water Resources Commission (WRC) at its last regular meeting for its "failure to be practical" in litigation to abate pollution of the Rouge River.

Commissioner Charles Rentrow leveled a strong attack on the WRC for failure to recognize Birmingham and Bloomfield Township have spent more than \$200,000 since 1935 in disposal plant improvements.

During the previous week Birmingham commissioners and officials of Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township had been handed show cause orders which they should not be cited for contempt of court for failure to meet pollution abatement deadlines.

Attempts made to meet this deadline have been underway for the past two North Evergreen efforts to get the North Evergreen sewage disposal system installed, it was pointed out.

"It is certainly not our fault that we haven't come through as requested," Rentrow declared.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

**BLOOMFIELD** — The Bloomfield Township tax protest group is now circulating petitions asking a list from "excessive" taxation and the township's property reassessments. Mrs. John Begovich of the protest group said that more than 600 persons had signed the petitions and that they would be sent to tax authorities in Lansing.

Mrs. Begovich also asked that persons dissatisfied with decisions of the township board of review write to Louis M. Nimes, chairman of the state tax commission. She added that many persons failed to get hearings with the review board although extra meetings were scheduled on four days.

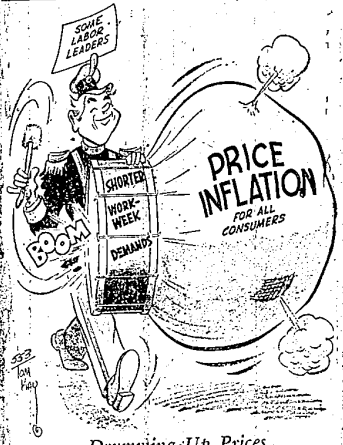
Another meeting of the protest group was held this week to discuss the signatures of the township for the fiscal year ending in April.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

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## THE AMERICAN WAY



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### Educational Systems in State Presenting Big Money Problem

EDUCATION is at another crossroads in Michigan. Increased costs are being weighed against the American principle of education for all who can benefit from it and turn their talents to the betterment of the nation.

Superimposed over the basic problem is the need for keeping America abreast of the rest of the world. The 1938 problem in Michigan can be spelled out in dollar signs.

Students find it more difficult to make ends meet, with increased fees and mounting costs of living. The taxation field to support education is nearing saturation. The legislature has become the focal point of the issue. It is required by the constitution to raise, by taxation the money necessary to support state government.

The problem for legislators: How to maintain basic governmental services, including higher education, at a time when the tax burden is overtopping and the yield from existing levies is dropping?

Start with elementary and high schools. For years, it was certain that the school's share of the state sales tax would be more than adequate to cover state aid payments. That certainly ended two years ago.

At that time, local schools said they wanted state aid at the rate of \$190 per pupil. To make the formula work, the state advanced \$20,000,000 from money due the next year.

To cover the same shortage in 1937-38, the legislature passed increases in the liquor and cigarette taxes. These are still in effect.

The legislature has again proposed \$190 per pupil for 1938-39 but, with 10,000 more students entering the system, another \$16,000,000 will be needed.



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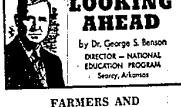
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## LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Beeson  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Savoy, Arkansas

### FARMERS AND PROGRESS

Most of us have repeatedly heard in recent years the statement: "People are leaving the farms in droves; we must keep the people on the land." Let's take a clear-headed look at this statement. When the United States government was established a few years before 1800, farmers made up 95 per cent of the population. Nearly everyone was engaged in the production of providing food and fiber for the nation's families. As production efficiencies increased on the farms and our nation grew, a trend was established in which large numbers of farmers found that they would improve their economic status by seeking urban employment.

This trend has continued until today our farm families constitute only 12 per cent of the nation's population. Yet farm production, improved through mechanization, new fertilizers and techniques, and stimulated artificially by government subsidization of prices now far exceeds the need and the demand. Government warehouses are overflowing with 37 million worth of unmarketable produce and additional billions in taxpayer money are being spent each year in an impractical effort to solve the problem.

### Farmers Moving

The Committee for Economic Development has published an analysis of the problem which notes that: "While total output has been rising, the number of workers in agriculture has declined from 16,979,000 in 1910 . . . to 7,859,000 in 1935. The farm community has thus been able to release 1,110,000 workers — 28 per cent — from 1910 to 1935. Without these recruits from agriculture the growth of American industry could not have been so rapid." Although it has been slowed down by the price subsidy program, the migration of the farms has been economically healthy — both for the farm families involved and for the nation's general welfare.

"If it had not been for this movement," the CED notes, "the present day decline in average farm income would be much more severe, for many more farmers would be dividing up total farm income." The Committee contends that government subsidization of prices is keeping many families on farms, living meagerly, who would do much better in other occupations — just as millions like them have done better in the farm-urban migration during more than fifty years of transition.

(Continued on Page 4B)

College administrators found it hard to believe the legislature would cut back when it is so important to prepare for the "tidal wave" of students at college level which has been passing through lower grades. They are trying to deal with the greatly increased number of high school graduates in the knowledge that a greater percentage than ever will be seeking

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## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Twenty-Five Years Ago (March 30, 1933)

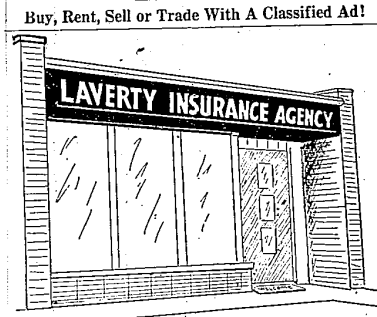
**Township Election**  
Farmington Township finds in its election Monday two factors that have not been present for years. One is that Precinct I will return to the Town Hall in Farmington to do its voting and the other is the presence of two tickets in the field. Although the campaign has been somewhat quiet thus far, interest is keen and a large vote is expected. Opposing Supervisor Arthur P. Coe, Republican, is Dr. H. E. Boice, Democratic candidate. Next in importance and interest is the office of clerk with incumbent Willard Campbell, Republican, being opposed by Mrs. Ina Sturman on the Democratic ticket. Mrs. Loveta E. Cox, Township treasurer, is another Republican incumbent, opposed by Theodore Kohlman. Clayton Goss, commissioner of highways and a Republican, is opposed by Joseph Graham, Democratic nominee.

**TEN YEARS AGO (April 1, 1938)**  
**Hospital Vote**  
Voters of Farmington, as well as throughout the remainder of Oakland County, will go to the polls Monday to vote in a special election being held at the request of the Oakland County Board of Auditors. After a complete survey of infirmary and hospital facilities in Oakland County, the board decided to petition the voters for funds to alter the present infirmary, construct a hospital addition and equip the new unit. Voters will be asked to approve a proposal to permit the increase on the limitation of the total amount of taxes which may be assessed each year against property in the county and authorize a \$2.00 per \$1,000 equalized valuation increase for a two year period.

**More Roads Out**  
Heavy rains during the past week have further bogged down large sections of the township and made travel almost impossible in even more sections. As a result of the rains, additional sections of Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads have become almost impassable. Dirt roads throughout the township are in general impassable.

**FIVE YEARS AGO (April 2, 1933)**  
**Teachers' Salaries**  
Minimum and maximum salaries of teachers in the Clareneville School District will be increased by \$200 beginning with the new fiscal year in accordance with a resolution approved by the School Board last week. Under the new plan, teachers with four years training and no experience will receive \$3,200 (the minimum rate). Teachers with five years training and 12 years of teaching will get the maximum rate of \$4,550. These salaries include regular pay plus a cost of living increment.

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