

Editorial Page

Unemployment in Focus . . .

is the title of an editorial which recently appeared in The Wall Street Journal. In brief fashion it makes an important point, so we reprint it.

"Every once in a while the politically-oriented recession waiting gets so loud the economic picture is thrown slightly out of focus. Let's look at one aspect of it, unemployment, which is the subject many politicians and unionists labor daily.

As of mid-April there were 5,120,000 people unemployed out of a possible total work force of 68,027,000. This figures out to be slightly more than seven per cent.

"Now to the man who's unemployed it doesn't matter what the figures are—he's having a tough time. But an impassioned analysis of those figures can be made only when they are considered in the light of the nation's employment record.

"From 1890 to 1929 the average number of unemployed was 10 per cent, although it exceeded 15 per cent during the worst years. Unemployment reached its peak in this country in March, 1933, when it stood at 30 per cent. And throughout the Thirties (even though the New Dealers were spending promiscuously) those out of work averaged 20 per cent of the labor force.

"Unemployment dipped as low as three and four per cent only during the biggest boom years of the late Forties and early Fifties, when America's industrial machinery was expanding prodigiously.

"Therefore, when we attempt to appraise the present state of the economy in terms of unemployment we should remember that seven per cent out of work, while personally distressing, is mathematically excessive only when compared with the best years any economy ever had."

The Military Setup . . .

undoubtedly needs many changes, with reorganization and streamlining of the defense department. There has been, for a good many years, a very substantial number of well informed people who have pointed out that the department could be run much more efficiently—service rivalries could be reduced—a better job could be done for less money.

So President Eisenhower and his secretary of defense bring out proposals for reorganization—and a regular hullabaloo breaks out. Some congressmen, professional military people, politicians rushed in with predictions we'd wreck our whole defense system if we tamper with the present confusing, complicated and, we suspect, rather antiquated military setup. It looks as if the alarmists have succeeded to some extent, too.

We've never been able to understand why one single branch of the military shouldn't include the army, navy, marines, air force, coast guard, and every other group.

Maybe enough of Ike's ideas will percolate through to improve on the old set-up, but it's a tough row to hoe when you start to change the military.

This City Will . . .

be fortunate if the plans for the new industry, American Bakeries Co., works out as announced here last week, and both the city council and the city manager should be complimented for the manner in which they have worked with the firm's representatives. Seems to us to be an excellent addition to the city's business scene.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI — While Wikom was celebrating his new life as a city this week, officials in Novi were studying the possible effects of the election on their continuity.

Several major problems stand out (1) Novi will lose all revenue from the Lincoln plant at the end of the current tax year. This will cut at least \$125,000 from the equal valuation of the township. (2) Trustee Stan Balon, a resident of Wikom, will have to vacate his seat on the Novi Township Board since state law prohibits a city resident from holding office in another community. He will be out of office as of the Monday appointment of a new trustee at its next meeting June 2nd. (3) In addition there are a number of technical questions of assets problem to consider. It has been estimated that Wikom's share of Novi's wealth (cash, materials, buildings and the like) would amount to somewhere around \$50,000. (4) Wikom is now in a position to annex Novi territory including the proposed 2,000 home Lincoln Village which borders directly on Novi.

—The Novi News.

SOUTHFIELD — The financial picture was brightened last week in the new City of Southfield when a \$30,000 appropriation of 1953 taxes was received by City Treasurer Clara Lane from Northland Center, incorporated.

Starting with nothing following the April 23 vote of approval on a charter adoption, the city treasury has gathered in a few thousand dollars from dog tag building permits and a few incidents, but had not had sufficient funds for operation— including meeting the past payroll. The city now has funds to meet the May 23 payroll for two weeks and amounting to about \$13,000.

Word was also received from the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission giving consent to float a \$387,000 loan on which to operate the new tax millage is received. The city expects to have the money on or before June 5 from sale of bonds.

What the city tax rate will be for the 1953 fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, has not yet been decided. Under the charter limitation it cannot exceed \$7 per \$100 and is expected to be set at much less. This must be decided soon because, until it is, bills on taxes due July 1 cannot be made up.

—The Southfield News

PLYMOUTH — Because of the unprecedented rising of B-29's in 1945, streets, fire hydrants and other valuable targets, a proposal to draft an air rifle ordinance was approved by the city commissioners Monday night.

Although Plymouth was, for years, the world's biggest producer of all kinds of tinware, it has an ordinance controlling their use. The real trouble began when workmen at the Day's Manufacturing Co. allowed youngsters to carry away several hundred of the air rifles in the warehouse damaged by fire recently.

—The Plymouth Mail

BLOOMFIELD — By laws enacted last week, the city was presented to representatives of Bloomfield Township associations Tuesday night at a special meeting working toward a federation of civic groups.

Proposals were distributed so that representatives of local groups could report back to their respective meetings. A meeting is scheduled for June 24 to accept, amend or reject the proposals.

At an earlier organizational meeting representatives of 25 civic associations indicated an intention to join the group and three others stated that they were considering it.

The proposed name of the group is Federated Civic Associations of Bloomfield Township. Starting as a committee to protect the interests of citizens are now concerned with broader questions of township government and welfare.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

SOUTH LYON — A steering committee report, recommending expansion of the Lyon Township School District in the near future was approved by the Citizens Advisory Committee Tuesday night despite some protests.

Heart of a report made by the Citizens Committee, almost a year in preparation, was that expansion of the school district as population increases expected in the near future.

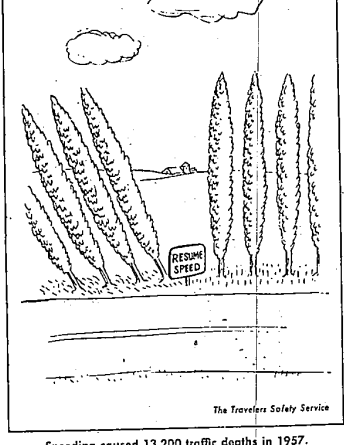
Called for is construction of a new high school, conversion of the old high school into a junior high and the erection of two new elementary schools.

—The South Lyon Herald.

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The Road Toll

by Jerry Marcus



Speeding caused 13,200 traffic deaths in 1957.

MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

Police Budget, Unemployment Benefits Still Hanging Fire

MICHIGAN'S 1953 LEGISLATURE will return June 12-13 still in confusion over the kind of record it will write in an election year.

Still hanging fire are the State Police budget and a change in unemployment compensation benefits.

Strangely, the fights on both points are among Republicans with the Democrats waiting on the sidelines for campaign issues.

Major issues of the budget are all settled; the state will cut services and layoff employees in a time of desperate need for economy.

There remains the most delicate area of all, the State Police. The Senate says the state must slash the budget equally among the agencies or face financial disaster.

House members, headed by Rep. Harry J. Phillips (R-Peabody), are insisting on the restoration of the slashed funds as administrative sources say it will mean 100 less troopers.

Included in the same budget bill with the State Police is a \$25,000 budget for the State Safety Commission.

The Commission is composed of top state officials, including Gov. Williams, but most of the money goes for the state safety director, Gerald E. Shipman, and his staff.

"If this is cut out, I believe the state will pay in the numbers of lives lost on the highway," said Gov. Williams.

The Senate cut out the entire budget for the commission, but political forces about the Capitol have it will be restored before the final version goes to Williams. The expenditure is so small and the benefit so dramatic, it is hard to believe the issue will be lost.

Highway maps, the victim of a whimsical amendment in the Senate, will not be printed by the state after June 30.

The development occurred after Republicans rammed through amendments barring the expenditure of highway money for a new radio system some claimed would cost several million dollars and a \$135,000 state airplane for the department.

Looking Back

Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

May 25, 1928
Conforming to the trend shown in other sections of Oakland County, Farmington City and Township property valuations are likely to be greatly reduced for the coming year.

Assessment officials of both governmental units are contemplating important reductions in assessments on which they are now working, preparatory to hearings of the board of review 10 days hence.

The reduction proposed in the city is a straight 20 percent. The reductions in the township are expected to average at least that much and many will be reduced more than 20 percent. Supervisors or Arthur P. Cox said.

Graduation
The largest class in the history of Farmington High School will be graduated on June 1. Exercises will be held at the Farmington M. E. Community Hall with 53 receiving their diplomas.

TEN YEARS AGO

May 27, 1943
Dial Phoning
Ground was broken Monday morning for a new building to house the Farmington exchange of Michigan Bell Telephone. The building will be constructed at the corner of Power Road and Grand River and will be the first step in the establishment of dial telephone service in Farmington.

The new dial system for Farmington should be in operation by September of 1953, Bell officials said.

New Town Hall
The appointment of a three-man committee to consider possible sites for the location of a township office building was approved by the Township Board Tuesday evening. Named to the committee were Ward Eagle, Harold DeLong and Edward Moseman. Eagle was appointed chairman.

Kindergartners
A total of 302 Farmington Township School District children were registered during the special pre-school enrollment period held last week. Miss Minnie Zielke, elementary coordinator, announced. According to the 1953 school census, a total of 369 children in the District are eligible to enter kindergarten this fall.

FIVE YEARS AGO

May 29, 1948
City Parking
The Farmington City Council took further steps last week to relieve the traffic congestion situation. "No parking at any time" will be put into effect on the main business district area. In other sections of the business district two hour parking areas were established.

Garden Visits
Tickets for the Farmington garden pilgrimage set for Saturday and Sunday will go on sale Monday at the Farmington State Bank. The pilgrimage is being sponsored by the Detroit Garden Center of Belle Isle.

This is the first time that Farmington gardens have been included in the annual pilgrimage.

To be visited will be the gardens of Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mrs. Edward Moseman, Mrs. Howard Hanna, Mrs. Orville Foster, Mrs. William Spicer, Mrs. Luman Goodenough, Mrs. William Steum, and Mrs. Elmer Dohany.

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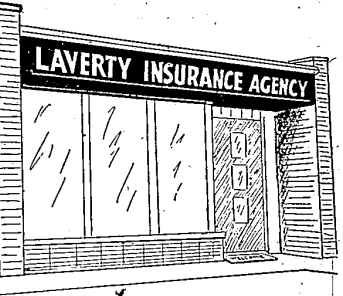
Richard L. Feys, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Feys of 32480 Dohany Drive, Farmington, graduated from recruit training May 10 at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

The graduation exercises, marking the end of nine weeks of "boot camp", included a full dress parade and review before military officials and civilian dignitaries. In nine weeks of instruction, the "raw recruit" is developed into a Navy Bluejacket, ready for duty with the fleet.

School teachers are best paid in Boston, where the average wage per school year is \$5,591. New York is second, \$5,407; San Francisco third, \$5,216.

The U. S. Navy, the world's largest, has a strength greater than that of all other countries of the world combined.

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