

Editorial Page

Help Small Business

There is undoubtedly an awareness in Washington and Lansing that small business concerns have been in trouble for some time now. There is talk, and we know it's a problem, but there just has not been too much done yet to stop this trend.

Sure, Congress has passed a bill supposed to help small business. It may in some instances, but it won't be much help to small retail businesses, and they need help most. The measure doesn't provide for any reduction in tax rates. It does allow a firm to reduce its taxable income by deducting an increased percentage of machinery and equipment costs for depreciation in the first year after purchase.

This help therefore goes mostly to small manufacturers. We'll admit they need it. But so do small retailers, who generally don't have much in the way of machinery or heavy equipment.

The Senate has been holding some hearings now and then on another proposal which, while somewhat explosive, would really be of more practical help to small retailers.

That's a bill which would pretty much return "fair trade" to the business scene. We haven't been able to get any details on this complicated proposal. About all we know is that it was introduced by Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, both Democrats. It is called a federal fair trade law, which would permit manufacturers to set minimum retail prices on their products. Sounds pretty much like the one which has been about battered to death in the last couple of years.

Some people dislike fair trade. But it is the only help which small retailers have ever had in their fight for survival. Help like the bill just passed is really no more than something to which lawmakers can point and say, "look what I did for you."

Retailers, and this includes some of the larger ones, have really been having a rough time. Many have just quit. Witness the buildings for rent in our area. You'd better not say it makes no difference to you—you didn't trade there anyway. You are affected in several ways. Those stores pay taxes, and keep you from paying more. Those small business men are usually among the most active in community events. Maybe they have only a few employees, but those jobs are needed in the community also. As a practical matter, it's usually much easier to get good service and repair work done on purchases from the smaller business. More people seem now to be realizing that "service after purchase" is very important to the buyer. And more stores are beginning to push that truth as more people understand it.

We think that fair trade may be on its way back. But it will be some time yet, and meantime the retailer you need may be obliged to give up the ghost because he didn't have fair trade in some critical times.

Don't Forget to Vote

The primary election is always important—all elections are. But in addition there are a couple of special elections here next Tuesday. Residents of the proposed City of Quaker Town vote on incorporation, and there is the annexation voting for both the area involved and the city residents. We won't suggest how to vote, but please do vote!

The Farmington Enterprise

2323 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan
Telephone
GREENLEAF 4-6225

Established in 1889 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week at the City of Farmington and entered at the Post Office in Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second-class matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
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NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
MICHIGAN PRESS SERVICE, INC.
1750 Grand Blvd., Detroit 16, Mich.
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES, INC.
1750 Grand Blvd., Detroit 16, Mich.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



SOUTHFIELD—Southfield High School football lights remain in doubt—as far as this season is concerned.

The board of education apparently has \$40,000 earmarked for the erection of lights but just when the okay will be given is not certain. The board is currently paying \$300,000 of its current \$1,000,000 bond issue leaving \$40,000 worth authorized by the voters last year.

At a special meeting recently, the unavailability part of the issue was mentioned but nothing was done to obtain immediate action. Some time ago the board had asked architects for detailed plans of the lights and an estimate on cost for their erection. The Southfield athletic department has its 1958 home games booked at night but, unless the board moves fast, they're either going to have to change them to day-time play in the dark.

—The Southfield News

NOVI—The township board has grudgingly agreed to hold the line on expenses after learning that the township treasury is all but bare.

At present the township is actually in the red. Operating money is coming from the supposedly inviolable township park fund. Though receipts of perhaps \$10,000 are expected shortly, the treasury will not be filled to overflowing even then.

An audit for August and June, the first quarter of the current fiscal year shows Novi's income to be \$20,746 and that its expenses ran \$25,598—a deficit of nearly \$5,000.

—The Novi News

BIRMINGHAM—City officials looked aghast to the City of Birmingham a few years from now have decided that some long range planning needed to be done. The decision is based on such things as the city manager made that in 20 years the city's traffic would be more than two and one half times what it is now.

If any long range plan is drawn up, Birmingham's downtown streets might someday be closed to traffic and replaced by elevated highways. The idea is to re-route traffic around the business district creating a shopping area where the telephone booths, fountains and sculpture would grace what once was the main street and parking lots the area under this plan.

"There's no reason why Birmingham couldn't have everything that the Garden City has, with a little imagination and creative planning," City Commissioner Harry Denyes said.

The planning board has been asked by the city commission to do some more research on the need for a long range plan.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

LIVONIA—An awesome half-million dollar damage suit has been filed against the City of Livonia and the American Red Cross as the result of an auto accident in 1956.

Stephen Horvath of Belleville has made the claim for compensation for "medical bills, loss of income and pain suffering" resulting from injuries he suffered in the accident. Horvath's pickup truck collided with a station wagon owned by the city and operated by the American Red Cross in a 31-year-old rental car in Livonia.

The city's liability insurance was \$25,000 1/20th of the amount asked by Horvath from both the Red Cross and the city.

—The Livonian

FRANKLIN—It doesn't matter how you slice it, it still is going to cost Franklin Village between \$85,000 and \$100,000 to join the Evergreen Sewer District.

Village President Grant Siver said that the cost to Franklin would be the same whether the village paid for the long sewer line down Evergreen Road or for its share of the pumping stations and line along Eight Mile Road which would provide an outlet for a system of proposed lines to the villages along the river bottom.

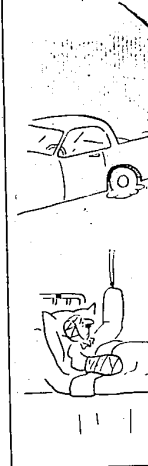
In either case Franklin and Bingham Farms are buying a product that they can use the service when and if the means to carry the two villages sewage to these points are available. Siver and some other village officials have objected to paying for what appears to be a service for Westwood, Southfield City and Livonia.

Despite the fact that officials are not too happy about the cost for joining the Evergreen Sewer District, they feel it is a necessity because of the fact that some sewage problems do exist and others are likely. A two-thirds vote of the people will be necessary to permit joining the sewer district. The election will probably be set at the same time as the General Election in November.

—The Village Crier

The Road Toll

By Jerry Marcus



Better than 97% of the road toll cars were apparently in good condition.

MICHIGAN MIRROR •

by ELMER WHITE

Paul Bagwell, GOP Governor Candidate, Knows Campaigning

REPUBLICANS have an energetic candidate running for governor at a time when voters have become used to energy, sparkle and action.

He is Paul D. Bagwell, who won one national election with crazy hats and flashy vests and slogans.

Bagwell learned the technique worked when he was elected national president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce a few years ago.

He proved it again in the years in which he served as state March of Dimes chairman. Bagwell has been elected to his camp, and they are growing with the job.

Campaigners have been taking up small signs in every corner. "Bagwell was here," on the chance he will become as well known as Kilroy, of World War II fame.

"They paid \$1,700 for a 1908 Oldsmobile to carry him on his campaign, to dramatize the age of the 1908 state constitution and that that Democrats have held the office long enough.

Bagwell's speeches are full of the old college zip, but laced with tough facts dug up by dedicated researchers.

Brashness comes unannaturally to Bagwell, who lived the polite life of a college professor and, though never a snob, counted top business executives among his friends.

One report quoted an aide as saying "Bagwell had to talk himself into coming uninvited" to a legislative party at Cheboygan where he went on a hand-shaking tour of the hall.

Though he was eyed with misgivings by some Republicans when he tackled Williams, Bagwell has been advised to avoid mistakes of his unsuccessful predecessors.

So now, he will seek out legislators in their districts and ask their advice—which he can use and offer his help—which most legislators can use.

Other Republican candidates have encountered wide schisms in the party, which he hopes to circumvent.

The contrast of the Bagwell effort with the highly-tuned Democratic machine is startling.

From Gov. Williams down to the newest precinct worker, the

William Ramsay Dies Suddenly

William Ramsay, 2827 West Nine Mile Road, passed away suddenly July 25th, from a heart condition while vacationing at Rogers City.

He was born September 9, 1877 in Peneuick, Scotland, the son of William and Elizabeth Ramsay. His wife, Elizabeth, preceded him in death April 15, 1957.

Mr. Ramsay leaves four sons, William W. of Philadelphia, Penna.; James M. of Palm Springs, California; Alex M. W. of Farmington and John C. of Grosse Pointe; four grandchildren; three great grandchildren and one brother, John Ramsay in Scotland.

Funeral services were held from the Spencer J. Healey Funeral Home at 1:30 p.m. Monday, with Rev. Richard Geiger of the First Presbyterian Church, Farmington, officiating.

Interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

It is good for us to think that no grace or blessing is truly ours till we are aware that God has blessed some one else with it through us.

—Phillips Brooks

Looking Back

Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

July 27, 1933
Widening Omitted

The proposed widening and rebuilding of Grand River Avenue from Farmington Road west to the Cut-Off, was not included in a list of projects approved by the State Highway Dept., released Thursday from the office of Murray D. Van Wagoner, Three Oakland County projects were included in the list but none in the Farmington area.

Property Value

A report of the equalization committee of the County Board of Supervisors during the past week set the valuation of property in Farmington City at \$1,447,156. This represents a reduction of \$48,471 from the assessed valuation.

A controversy has developed over the proposed valuations set by the committee and it is probable that they will not finally be adopted as reported. The situation is so muddled that the whole matter will be referred to the State Tax Commission. Charges of "unfair boosting" of valuations in certain cities in the county have been made.

TEN YEARS AGO

July 20, 1948

Recreation
A record attendance was reached last week in the Farmington Area Summer Recreation Program, Director Bill Nuse announced.

At the three playgrounds was the highest since the program started, although rain forced closing one day. Total attendance was 1,437 students, an average of 264 per day.

Pet-Doll Parade

The children's Pet and Doll Parade, which wound up the activities of the American Legion Gala Days in Farmington, drew a throng of festive townspeople and youngsters to the new Legion Memorial Home grounds last Sunday. While kids of all ages intermittently ran about, shouted, cried, got lost and ate too much cotton candy, judges and other Legion officials tried (sometimes in vain) to organize them and choose place winners from the various groups.

FIVE YEARS AGO

July 30, 1953

Civil Defense
It's happened again. A meeting of the Farmington Civil Defense Council has been called off because of lack of attendance. The meeting Monday was adjourned by Chairman Charles Layton when only eight people showed up. The Civil Defense program in Farmington was reorganized several months ago following the disastrous tornadoes in Flint and Milford and interest ran high. Now it is down to practically nothing again.

"We need section wardens, auxiliary police and firemen and other volunteers before we can consider any kind of a master plan of defense for the community," Layton lamented.

Township Hall

Several proposals are now being drafted for the enlargement of the present township offices or the construction of a new township hall by a special committee recently appointed by the Township Board.

While no offering can liquidate one's debt of gratitude to God, the fervent heart and willing hand are not unknown to nor unrewarded by Him.

—Mary Baker Eddy

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF FARMINGTON OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Resolution No. 3372 adopted by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors on May 5, 1958, the question as to whether or not the territory described below shall be detached from the Township of Farmington and annexed to the City of Farmington shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said Township and said City at a SPECIAL ELECTION to be held on the Fifth (5th) Day of August 1958, in said City of Farmington and said Township of Farmington.

Said territory is described as follows: All that part of Town 1 North, Range 9 East, Farmington Township, Oakland County, Michigan, known and described as follows:

All of Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33;
The West One-Half (W 1/2) of Section 28;
All the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section 21, Except the East One-Half (E 1/2) of Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) Section 21;

The West One-Half of the Northwest Quarter (W 1/2 of NW 1/4) of Section 21.

s/ TRENA M. QUINN,
City of Farmington Clerk

Dated: July 10, 1958. (July 10, 17, 24, 31, 1958)

Take Training At Utah Camp

David L. Rentz and Dale P. Golla of Farmington

among a group of 147 officers and enlisted men in the 422nd Ordnance Battalion from Dearborn recently returning from two weeks of active duty training at Tooele, Utah.

The 422nd is an organic unit and its mission is to provide direct support ordnance service for field armies. The Battalion is composed of three companies, at present, whose mission is automotive rebuilding. The units composed primarily of specialists who are employed by one of the "Big 3" automotive companies or related automotive industries in civilian life.

This two week summer camp emphasized "on the job" training in the rebuild shops. It has been a practical application of training periods held every Monday evening at the Army Reserve Center in Dearborn. During these training periods an intensive program of shop work and lecture on maintenance of vehicles and various army procedures was conducted.

The 422nd Ordnance Battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Baldwin, an executive at the Cadillac Motor Car Division in Detroit. He makes his home in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

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Yippee-e SCHOOL!

Johnny's had a busy summer, what with Little League, camp, the vacation, and hundreds of other violent activities.

But his liking for milk, and regular use of this fine food, leaves him in excellent physical and mental health for the opening of school.

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