

# Editorial Page

## Others Benefit, Too

There is some evidence that business men and property owners on the north side of Grand River in downtown Farmington do not think the proposed new city parking lot at the rear of the businesses on the south side of Grand River would benefit them across the street.

They certainly would benefit, even if not quite so directly as the other property, and the north side should be allowed to pay a proportionate share of the costs of such a project.

The committee appointed last week by the city council to determine how much parking should be undertaken immediately has been asked to make a fast but thorough study and report soon. These details should be ironed out soon after the first of the year, so work on the parking area can start next spring.

Some people still don't understand the great need and grave importance of this project. The city council does, and must be praised for the urgency it is giving the plans. Without such parking plans the downtown renewal hopes are not worth considering further.

## Wage Boost Excuse

There is no question but what the minimum wage will be brought up in the forthcoming congressional session. Labor is using 20th anniversary celebrations of the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 as a kickoff in the drive to increase the minimum wage.

With the recent election of many new "liberals" to congress, backers think prospects for upping the base are promising. They are undoubtedly right.

To insure some fairness in the changes proposed, we hope the legislation will be handled in two parts. The primary goal might well be extension of the present law to those workers now not covered. We always have to wonder just how many workers in America are getting less than \$1.00 per hour. There certainly can't be many, but we'll agree it's very likely they should be covered.

It would be best if any proposed increase in the minimum rate would be handled separately, and the full effect of any increase brought before the public. Many people feel an increase in the minimum rate would only mean the top rates would also be boosted by a like amount. Despite protestations, that's the way it seems to work out.

Inflation from wage increases and the results of these is a very real threat in America right now. We ask if increase of the minimum wage wouldn't provide a further hefty boost for inflation?

## It's Only The Start

Christmas decorations in the downtown business area are not what the sponsoring committee had hoped, but they are better than last year. If any resident be critical of them, we suggest the Chamber of Commerce committee will gladly receive his immediate donation and put it away for the better decorations promised next year.

A small group of business men worked hard to get these donations, and the equipment purchased is permanent, so it can be used and added to next year. But like others, we'll be glad to see more lights next Christmas, and will work toward that goal.

## The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



**SOUTH LYON**—The Lyon Township School District Board has reached a tentative agreement for the purchase of approximately 20 acres of property for a new elementary school. (See local paper.) The action taken at the regular board meeting paves the way for construction of a new 13-room elementary school on an overgrown site.

The property is located adjacent to Woodside Acres subdivision southeast of town. Purchase price is \$12,000. Present plans call for the school to house kindergarten through sixth grade classes. Another offer of property on Pontiac trail south of Nine Mile Road was also made but declined because of the previous tentative agreement for the other site.

—The South Lyon Herald

**Footnote:** It is better than twice as much property as the Farmington School Board has been purchasing for new elementary schools. A site of this size would be considered suitable for a junior or senior high by the local board.

**NOVI**—Rate village citizens aimed their protests at a proposed zoning change last Monday night and scored at least a temporary stalemate.

Under fire was a request that six acres of land in Novi be rezoned to permit the construction of a trailer court or mobile home site.

After the public hearing ended, the planning commission decided to postpone any decision on the rezoning request until the commission's next regular meeting December 28.

An unusual twist to the zoning issue which raised the ire of several persons at the hearing is the fact that Commissioner of Public Safety is owner of the property under question. Flynn requested the area be changed from light manufacturing (M-1) to residential (R-1) and that George Haak, a prospective buyer might construct a trailer court on the property.

The proposed site is located on the south side of Grand River between the gas apartment building — and between the C & O rail track and East road.

—The Novi News.

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**—Despite extremely bad weather, the annual Hills school district vote total in history turned out to defeat the board of education's proposals for additional taxes.

The vote was 597 "yes" and 863 "no" for the proposal to increase school taxes by four mills for a three-year period, decreasing to three mills for the next two years. Also rejected by a 624 "no" to 614 "yes" vote was the \$1,155,000 bond issue proposal.

In the head of the citizens' committee which fought the millage increase stated that, "This negative vote will force new thinking whereby school boards will acquiesce to less tax money with a ready ample budgets without sacrifice of educational opportunities for our children." The people here are finally becoming fed up with the school board officials in their reckless and extravagant proposals," Picotte added.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

**PLYMOUTH**—Members of the Plymouth board of education will give their decision next month on the controversial question of whether or not to allow parochial school children to ride public school buses.

Petitions bearing names of 1,419 people requesting that public school buses transport parochial children were presented to the board Monday night by Father J. F. Child, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

Only a few minutes before the petitioners were asked to continue its past policy that prohibits use of public school facilities for church sponsored activities. This came during the meeting of the Board of Good Counsel basketball team requested use of the Junior High gymnasium for practice by the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams.

The 1,419 names, included those of both Catholics and Protestants as well as the names of several leading business men.

—The Plymouth Mail

When you observe children of five years in a tantrum, you wonder who will manage them when they are thirty?

A curriculum told his wife that she was to put in money in the paid funeral notice: "Please omit flowers — too late."

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## THE AMERICAN WAY



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## Concern of Safety Experts Shifting to "Drinking" Driver

**HIGHWAY SAFETY** EXPERTS are getting worried about the killer with two martini glasses held aloft.

He is not legally intoxicated. But the jolt to his system, that feeling of well being, confidence or power transmits itself to the accelerator and makes him a menace on the highway.

State traffic officials are taking the emphasis from the drunk drivers to "sober" drivers. They are concerned in drunk research which shows that more than half of all traffic accidents in the country involve either a drinking driver or a drinking pedestrian.

Standards of drunkenness devised by chemical tests given at police stations no longer apply. There is evidence that "only a little alcohol has a big effect." If a driver has less than .05 alcoholic content per volume in his bloodstream, he is considered sober. If it is more than .05 and less than .15, the point can be argued.

A man or woman with .15 or more is loaded with alcohol, as dangerous as a loaded gun. Rather than drunken, drivers is a major problem as the holiday season approaches and the parties begin.

In winter, car windows are closed and the drinking driver is denied even the fresh breeze of air that makes him more alert. Traffic researchers claim that a driver goes faster in winter too. The windows are closed and he loses the sensation of speed as motion that comes with wind blowing through the car.

State Police Commissioner Joseph J. Childs and Sgt. of State James Hare note that the late winter months are the most disastrous for the highways for these and other reasons. There are three other factors: ice and snow and the earlier hours of darkness.

In November, Hare said, the state's chief highways were damaged by "bad luck," a series of multiple-death accidents. Five were killed in a one-car accident near St. Joseph. Four were killed in a two-car wreck near Holland. There was no evidence that the drivers were drinking in either case.

Three other accidents each killed three people and two others took two lives.

Some officials are optimistic that something can be done about the problem, whether drivers are "drinking" or not. The answer lies with the driver. Here are suggested practical steps to determine the number of drinking drivers and pedestrians who become the tragic statistics when the week-end toll is tallied.

Tougher law enforcement and other educational campaigns through the newspapers, which have suggested "honest" drivers down the toll on the highways in recent years, are ideas.

Judges could help by making violators surrender the driver's license for a 30-day period on probation a drinking driver convicted of reckless driving.

Children whose parents have conducted a continuing all-out war against drunk and reckless drivers, "don't believe" added enforcement is the complete answer.

The driver should be educated and warned, again and again, that even a few drinks take his life more in the long run to take chances behind the wheel, he said.

AS THE MIRROR anticipated months ago, Michigan is headed for a state income tax.

The details of the plan have

## Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

### 25 Years Ago

December 14, 1933

**Winery To Open**

An event that has been anticipated in this section since last week with the pressing of the first grapes at the LaSalle Wines and Champagnes, Inc. at Farmington Junction.

Tons of grapes at a large storage plant in Detroit are to be brought to the winery.

Concrete has been poured for the fermentation tanks and it is to be followed by the lining of the tanks with glass which will probably be started on Saturday. The glass is put on in sheets about one foot square, cemented to the concrete.

Pressing equipment is also expected to arrive soon, an official spokesman for the company said. Arrangements for installation of city water service in the plant are now being made by company officials.

Bringing of the aging casks from Windsor will follow completion of all the glass-lined tanks.

### Began Money

A warning to all businessmen and residents to be on guard against counterfeit currency was issued by Deputy Sheriff Joseph DeVriendt. A counterfeit \$10 bill was passed R. H. Moffat, proprietor of a gas station on Grand River at Farmington Junction last week, DeVriendt said.

It is believed that the counterfeiters intend to flood this area with bogus bills during the Christmas season, a U. S. Secret Service man who came here following the report said. Up to now the cops have been chasing the bills sporadically, he said.

(These bills are a poor imitation of the real thing and could be easily recognized by anyone looking for real money, the secret service man added.)

### 10 Years Ago

December 16, 1948

**Adult Education**

Organization for the formation of adult education classes in the Farmington Township School District was initiated by the Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday.

Art and crafts adult education courses are being requested regularly it was indicated.

It was agreed to start courses in any subject which more than 12 persons express interest in enrolling in provided that equipment and teaching personnel is available. Only courses approved by the State Dept. of Public Instruction will be offered, it was added.

Annexed to City

Voters of the City of Farmington and the Floral Park area,

## Takes Part in College Play

Army Specialist Four Louis C. Nolan, 22, of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Nolan, 3034 Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington, Mich., recently participated in a field training exercise with the 4th Armored Division in Germany.

A clerk in Headquarters Troop in the division's 15th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Nolan entered the Army in July 1957, completed basic training at Fort Hood, Tex., and arrived in Europe in December 1957.

He is a 1933 graduate of St. Theresa High School, Detroit and attended the University of Detroit. In civilian life Nolan has been employed by Wesley H. Mathews & Assoc., Pontiac.

## Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Only letters of general interest are those of the writer and his immediate relatives. Material received in this newspaper, Mailroom needs to be returned.

## Forecast 10% Traffic Death Drop in State

The State Police are forecasting a total traffic death toll of 1,375 in 1958, continuing the downward trend in fatalities for the third consecutive year.

The prediction is based on figures for the 11 month period through November and studies of the experience in past years.

The death toll at the end of 11 months was 1,065 compared with 1,246 in the same period last year.

Forecasts in previous years have been unusually accurate. If the 1958 prediction holds up, the year will end with a reduction in deaths of 10.5 percent under the toll of 1,537 in 1957. The goal was 10 per cent.

The downward cycle in deaths began in 1956, and was sparked by a new comprehensive safety program approved by legislators following a disastrous year in 1955, when 2,016 persons died. Compared with 1955, the death toll this year will be 10 per cent less, a saving of 641 lives.

by a better than four to one margin, approved the annexation of Floral Park to the city.

Although a relatively light vote was cast in the city, approximately 95 percent of the eligible voters in Floral Park turned out to cast their ballots.

### 5 Years Ago

December 17, 1933

**School Costs**

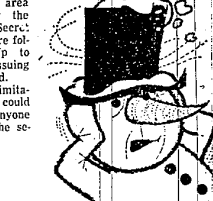
Farmington Township School Board continued its study of cost per classroom in relation to the proposed building program at a regular meeting held Monday evening.

The board voted to visit schools in Plymouth, Ann Arbor, Inkster and Melvindale for the purpose of observing less costly methods of construction on December 21.

A representative of the Eberle Smith architectural firm appeared at the Monday meeting to present several methods whereby the cost of classroom construction per square foot could be cut.

**Commercial Zone**

A proposed lay-out of additional commercial property in the City of Farmington was presented to the Planning Commission by Malcolm Waring last week. The proposition includes property on the north side of the Grand River Cut-Off and the adjoining property on Farmington Road.



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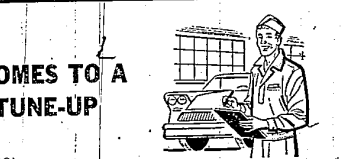
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