

Editorial Page

No More Judges

The April election of judges in Wayne county is hardly past, and now there is a great hue and cry that two more judges are needed there. In fact, a bill authorizing this has passed the House in the legislature, may find tougher sledding in the Senate.

Because the state would be paying half of their salaries, many people outside Wayne county should be interested. People in Oakland county should be more than just interested. It takes as long to get a case to the jury here as it does in Wayne—months and months too long!

Backers of the bill for two more Wayne judges say those judges now have more than a year's work piled up ahead of them. No doubt about it. But they also say the Wayne judges are overworked.

Some facts are available from the Annual Report of the Supreme Court, the latest figures being for 1957.

In that year the 18 Wayne county judges heard an average of 60 trials. The state average per judge was 72. Quite a few outstate judges heard well over 100 cases. Moreover, outstate judges donated 259 days as visiting judges serving in Wayne county. The Wayne judges went outside their circuit on only 17 days, so Wayne justice gained 242 days of help.

The salary of the Wayne judges is \$25,001. Of this Wayne pays \$12,501, the state \$12,500. Wayne upped its share so it would pay more than the state, allowing Wayne to take them under the county retirement system. The judges also partake in the state retirement system, so they really do wonderfully well financially.

Wayne judges open court at 10:30. Most outstate judges start at 9:30. In the summer it's rather difficult to find a judge in a Wayne county courtroom. Some take six week vacations. It takes 18 months to get the average jury case to trial in Wayne county—a fact that insurance companies know and use as a powerful lever to force settlements.

To any lay person the answer would seem obvious—force the Wayne judges to get to work. None of the attorneys will buck the lax habits, of course, and quite a few apparently support present practices.

Supreme Court Justice Eugene F. Black has criticized the Wayne situation forcibly. He has done and said some things we heartily dislike, but in this we'll have to support his criticism.

All we'd like to see is a modicum of work from the overpaid and lax Wayne judges. It will take more than failure to pass the bill for two more judges to remedy that situation.

Letters to the Editor

There are too few letters from readers in the Enterprise, and we'd like to see many more. We know there are many things happening in our community which merit public discussion.

We try to cover most community events, and problems, as well as time permits. We're very aware that some times these should have greater public interest. If others have the same feeling—please write a letter immediately.

The letters MUST be signed, but names won't be used if requested.

The Farmington Enterprise

23623 Farmington Road Telephone
Farmington, Michigan Greenleaf 4-6225

Established in 1885 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. Second-Class Postage Paid at Farmington, Michigan. Address all mail subscriptions, change of address, Forms 3579 to: 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington, Mich.

RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
DER ELLIS, Manager
MICHAEL J. KILEY, Editor
THOMAS W. CORNWELL, Advertising Manager
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East Lansing, Michigan

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES, INC.
178 Gayland Bldg. 4th Floor
Detroit 18, Mich. New York, N. Y.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

PLYMOUTH—With the name now changed from "Area Cooperation Group" to the Plymouth Community Town Hall Committee, final plans for the new building are being made for a Town Hall program June 4 (tonight) at which candidates for the board of education will appear.

There are two candidates in the race for two board of education seats this year. Candidates have been invited to speak and answer questions from the audience.

The Town Hall Committee was originally formed to impartially study the problems of the community. But its Town Hall meeting idea has proven to be of great value to the voters who otherwise may never get a chance of meeting candidates or publicly discussing problems.

—The Plymouth Mail

LIVONIA—DSR bus service down Plymouth Road into Livonia appears ready to start by the opening of school in September.

It will run as far west as Farmington Road and serve the two big shopping centers, as well as providing transportation to downtown Detroit.

Naylor William Groshar has been negotiating with Leo Nowicki, general manager of the Detroit department of street railways. The mayor is now asked the council to review and give approval to it.

Nowicki indicated that the service, if put into effect, would be an experimental one, at least to start with, only during the morning and late afternoon and early evening rush periods.

—The Livonian

DEARBORN—Acting as an interested citizen, Leo C. Beebe, Edsel Division's managing director, took a day off from work last week to discuss with school, city and business representatives a way to finance the school system. Beebe has claimed is virtually crippled from the May 12 millage election loss.

Beebe reportedly found out that a second millage proposition can be put to a vote, without the required 45 day wait, by including the millage proposition on the regular June 8 School Board member election which has already been advertised for more than 45 days.

Beebe also indicated that a general election of a 4% operating millage rate instead of the graduated 7, 8 and 9 mill rate that was rejected at the vote last year. This would add approximately \$27 million to the present school budget and permit the schools to operate without many of the cuts which the superintendent of schools indicated would be necessary.

When the millage proposition failed May 12, school officials immediately went about the task of cutting \$4.5 million from the proposed 1959-60 school budget.

—The Dearborn Press

WAYNE The ambitious Urban Renewal project for Wayne involving money totaling some \$5 million was approved recently by the Housing and Home Finance Agency of the Federal Government.

The FHFA gave its approval for the allocation of a \$3,117,000 temporary loan and a \$1,883,000 capital grant to improve defined blighted areas in the Southwest Annexed area of the village. The village will not have to repay the grant either.

The area to be cleared, repaved and improved encompasses 307 acres, including 9 1/4 miles of street. The village will remove the homes declared blighted, install paving, drainage, sidewalks, park space and landscaping. Some 40 units of Public Housing will also be constructed.

—The Wayne Dispatch

SOUTHFIELD—An ordinance is needed to solve the city's dog problem, Southfield Councilman Robert Wuerfel said last week.

"During the past year approximately 1,200 dogs have been picked up. Reports indicated only a small percentage have been reclaimed. The council indicate that dogs not wanted by owners in the surrounding area and in Southfield turn them loose, hoping someone will give them a home."

"I have requested the assistance of our attorney to draft a legal ordinance that will impose severe penalty upon any owner permitting a dog to roam upon our streets without a lease."

"The ordinance will also include penalties for unlicensed dogs."

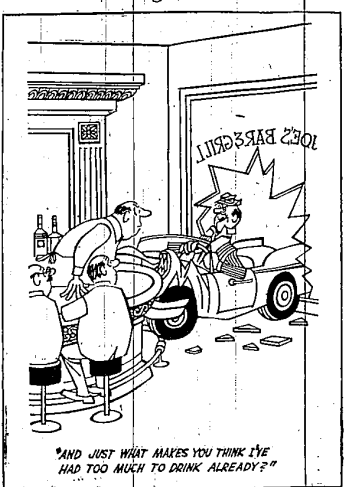
—The Southfield News

BIRMINGHAM—The seven Birmingham city commissioners believe they have reached a 1959-60 municipal budget that will require no increase.

They also have agreed the city can finance from current reserves the proposed \$151,000 addition to the Baldwin public library.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



In 1958 motor vehicle accidents killed 36,700 and injured 2,825,000.

MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

Time-Off for Guardsmen Asked Again This Summer

EMPLOYERS of the more than 12,000 Michigan National Guardsmen are being asked to help make it possible for them to train for active duty in peace and war.

Over the years most employers have been cooperative in granting troopers time off for the two-week summer training period.

Major Gen. Ronald D. McDonald, the state's new adjutant general, has asked trade associations and the chambers of commerce in all communities to carry the message to employers.

The training period runs between July 25 and Aug. 22 for all units. Three major installations are involved. Last year all-out training attendance reached a record 97.28 of assigned strength. In his letters to employers and chambers of commerce, Gen. McDonald stressed the importance of training.

BAD CHECK PASSERS are increasing in Michigan, bringing a war in wages from State Police Commissioner Joseph A. Childs to "treat everybody as a stranger."

An increase of 21 per cent in the number of fraudulent checks processed by the state police during the first four months of 1959 and a 40 per cent increase during May has been reported. Detective Sgt. Fred C. Kelly, head of the fraudulent check detail at state police headquarters, said the increase is probably due to bettering economic conditions.

He explained that, contrary to popular belief, bad check passers more often succeed when the economy is healthy, when there is a general feeling that most people have money to back them up.

Kelly's records show that July and August are the months at the height of the tourist and vacation season when most small merchants become the victims of check passers.

LANSING, the hub of the state's government since its early days, is winding up its centennial celebration.

One of the highlights was a four-hour parade, west on Michigan Avenue toward the capitol building, watched by 125,000 persons lining the curbs.

The parade theme was "The History of Transportation," featuring the earliest cars made in Detroit and "Landmark Covered wagons, ox-drawn carts, bicycles, a helicopter and two airplanes. There were queens—Miss America, Miss Michigan, the Lansing Centennial queen candidates and others.

With the parade, Lansing dramatized its place in history and its life, its economic theme "Proud of the Past—Confident of the Future."

GRADUATES at Michigan's colleges and universities have a better chance at employment than they did a year ago—but the boom days of the early 1950's are over.

Authorities in education, saying that high school graduates, though in a better position, still would be well advised to continue their education.

When the alma mater rings for the last time at commencement this year, there will be jobs waiting especially for those with good records in science, mathematics and engineering.

Most of the non-specialized graduates will have trouble. The poorest job prospect among the graduates is in education. He is entering the profession at

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
MAY 31, 1934

Bank Booming
Exceeding all expectations, Farmington's new bank has produced a pleasing surprise by surpassing, in its first week of operation, the goal of deposits which had been set for the first six months.

The \$100,000 deposits goal was passed last Saturday and deposits are increasing daily. This is in entirely new money and exclusive of the funds remaining in the deposit made for the 35 percent pay-off.

The number of accounts opened totaled 220. The largest portion of the total was in commercial accounts—\$66,660. Savings accounts totaled \$42,900.

The bank is now in the unusual position of having about \$60,000 more cash on hand than deposits, this being due to the capital and surplus accounts.

tax cut
Taxpayers in the City of Farmington will again find a welcome reduction in their tax bills this year.

The reduction will be accomplished mainly by a share stock in property valuations throughout the city. The average is about 25 per cent and runs as high as 28 per cent in many cases.

While the tax rate will be raised it will be more than offset by the reduction in valuations. The reduction in taxes has been estimated at an average of about 10 per cent.

The new rate for 1934-35 has not yet been set since the budget is still to be approved. If adopted as it was submitted, a tax rate of \$18 per \$1,000 assessed valuation will be required.

10 Years Ago
JUNE 2, 1949

Township Zoning
A definite campaign for a zoning ordinance in Farmington Township began to take shape this week, under the sponsorship of the North Farmington Civic Association.

Efforts are now underway for the organization of a township-wide zoning committee. Volunteers are being signed up from all sections of the township.

The group decided unanimously to launch the campaign and to carry it on to successful completion regardless of the time that will be required. Action in the near future, however is anticipated.

According to Chet Downing, spokesman for the group, an appeal is being made to all clubs, organizations and societies sufficiently interested in the project to get out and work for the adoption of an ordinance.

New School
The latest addition to the Farmington Township School District schools, the new school on Middlebrook Road north of Ten Mile, will be formally opened to the public on Monday night.

Started in the late spring of 1948, the new building contains five classrooms, an office and a

Wheel, Tire Theft Spree Reported

A series of wheel and tire thefts from unlocked cars in all parts of the City of Farmington was reported this week by the Department of Public Safety. Station wagons have been hardest hit. Director Joseph DeVriendt said. He urged all owners of station wagons to keep their tail-gates locked.

Public Letter Box

Thanks for Blood --

Dear Sir:

I wish to publicly express our appreciation and thanks for the wonderful cooperation and service extended to us by the Red Cross Blood Bank of Farmington and Mrs. Fred Lenz.

We read and hear of donors to the Red Cross Blood Bank, but until we have the experience of seeing the lifesaving properties of transfusions bring back the color to the cheeks of a loved one, the warmth and strength to the body, do we fully realize what a wonderful work is being done by the blood donors.

In recent weeks, this was brought home to us when my husband came through a physical experience that only could be mastered by transfusion.

Again our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to those who made this possible for us.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Louis Fink

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