

Editorially Speaking . . .

Where to Add More Classrooms Real Problem

Where should the next school be built or an addition put on to an existing school?

These are questions which school officials have had to face with more and more regularity in recent years due to the tremendous residential growth in this area.

The decisions having an effect on a lot of families who have children have not been, nor will they be in the future, easy ones to make. But, the decision must be made based on all the facts, figures and projections that can be garnered at the time.

Making the job exceptionally difficult is the fact that a considerable amount of time elapses between the time that a decision must be made and the time that the classrooms can actually be completed and ready for students. This is especially true in rapidly growing areas such as ours.

A school serving one certain area may be over-crowded, according to ideal standards of classroom loads established by the school district. On the face of it, this would indicate that some additional classrooms should be provided at the school in this area.

But, what about the time lapse between the time the decision is made and the time the classrooms will be ready? A school which might even have a little extra space now could be extremely over-crowded by the time more classrooms were completed. The school presently filled to ideal capacity or slightly beyond, on the other hand, might well be in an area where substantially less future growth is anticipated in the immediate future.

As can be seen from this example, the decision becomes a little bit of a guessing game. It hinges somewhat on past experience, what developers have indicated their plans are for certain areas and current census figures showing the number of children in an area; both those of school age and those who will be coming of school age soon.

What makes it a real guess is the fact that developers cannot give school officials any guarantee that they will have 100, 200 or 300 more homes sold in a planned development at a specific date. There is even the possibility, due to legal hitches or plan changes, that the residential development will not even be started when scheduled. Many developers tend to be over optimistic about how fast they will have homes in a proposed subdivision sold. Others tend to be a little too conservative.

It is also hard to say whether a planned development will bring families with an above average number of children or ones with few school age children.

Taking all of these things into consideration (and there are a lot of others besides), we feel that local school officials have done a commendable job of providing school classrooms, not only when they were needed but, where they

have been needed most.

That, the decisions on where new classrooms should be provided have been to the disadvantage of some parents with children while to the advantage of others is only natural. Some areas have probably been provided with a few more classrooms than would have been immediately needed while others are short. But, all in all, we think most of the decisions that have been made in recent years on where to provide classrooms next have been sound ones.

Let the Signs Stick Out

There are many things to be said for an ordinance restricting stick-out signs. But there are also many reasons that we can think of why such an ordinance should not be enforced at this time.

One of the principal reasons which has been given against enforcement of the ordinance now is that the absence of stick-out signs would make it more difficult for newcomers or transient traffic to locate a business establishment. It is the claim that this would cost that business some potential customers.

This is an argument which is subject to debate. Just how important the stick-out sign might be in helping customers in locating a business is hard to say but it is obvious that many merchants think they have value. If they did not then they would not have spent or be willing to spend the substantial amount of money that such over-hanging signs cost.

We do not wish to elaborate on the pros and cons of stick-out signs but would like to make this one opinion of ours clear. If there is any chance, even an outside one, that a stick-out sign could mean the difference between even three or four more customers a month for a city business place then we feel they should be permitted to stay up.

More business is needed too badly by most City of Farmington merchants at this time to do anything which might possibly reduce their chances of getting it.

The chief reason that we have heard given for wanting this sign ordinance enforced soon is that it would help make for a better appearing business section. This we are inclined to agree with but feel that there are some far more significant things which could be done to help accomplish this end.

When business conditions become healthier, we would strongly urge that some stringent restrictions be placed on the use of stick-out signs controlling the types permitted, their location, distance off the ground and distance extending out, etc. But, for the present we feel enforcement should wait and every effort be geared to doing all possible to get more business flowing back into Farmington stores rather than doing anything which might tend to turn even a very small percentage away.

Do You Remember . . .



THE STYLE of dress for youngsters was somewhat different back 40 or 50 years ago than it is today. One thing is very obvious, however, Farmington had healthy youngsters back in those days. Who knows, these same children could be adult residents in our community today. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Henrietta Adams.)

Girl Scout Activities

Girl Scout Week, celebrated lightly for the Scouts, was presented with a paper weight, in the form of a Girl Scout emblem. Mr. Reagan has generously given up much of his own time to help the Scouts with their many activities.

THE BIRTHDAY celebration was brought to a close as Brownie Troop 96 retired the colors. Credit for a smooth-running program and a tremendous amount of preparation go to: Mrs. June Lieb, Mrs. Lois Cori, Mrs. Georgia Ruelle and Mrs. Virginia Slagle.

Identify Girls on Switchboard

Mrs. Sarah Cairns Hopkins, 22230 Lakeway, Farmington, was kind enough to call the Enterprise office to identify the girls on the switchboard pictured in last week's issue. The girl on the left is Daisy Cairns Swab of Farmington. In the center was Theresa Cowell of Northville and the young lady on the right is Mrs. Hopkins who supervised the switchboard operation in the old Farmington telephone office.

Fire Safety Work Okayed

Work will be started soon on minor improvements at the Farmington Junior High School building to provide better fire safety. The projects are being done on the recommendation of the fire marshal.

At its last regular meeting the school board awarded contracts for the work based on the recommendations of the architect.

Gage Finishes Army Course

Army Pvt. William R. Gage Jr., whose parents live at 22230 Lakeway, Farmington, completed the eight-week radio relay and carrier operation course March 23 at the Southern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Ga.

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Wandering Thru Woodbine

L. HOELSCHER, GR. 4-4060 ETHEL BEGIAN, GR. 4-4759

At the regular meeting of the Middlebelt PTA held March 14 the slate of officers for the next school year was presented. We were happy to announce that Neil Donovan will again serve as Mother Vice-President and Barbara Fritz as Treasurer.

Following the business meeting for a party attended by the Board of Education, gave an interesting and informative talk. Refreshments were served by mothers of second graders. The April meeting will be the annual art exhibit.

LOUISE MARTIN, Neighborhood chairman for the Girl Scouts, baked a birthday cake for a party attended by 200 at the Middlebelt School March 10. The party held on International Friendship Day was to celebrate the 46th year of the founding of the Girl Scouts by Juliet Lowe. In honor of International Friendship Day, the table decorations included paper dolls made by the Girl Scouts of other countries and were dressed in their native Girl Scout uniforms. Also at the party there was a ceremony where each Girl Scout gives a penny which is sent to the Juliet Lowe Fund which supports international buildings. At present a Chateau in Switzerland and an International house in Mexico where Girl Scouts go for Conferences and Workshops.

Brownie Group 224 got into the act with a cue region of "Ballin the Jack". Brownies from Woodbine are Lesly Smith, Corinne Gornick, Karen Kirby, Marilyn Erickson, and Gayle Broesch.

Cecil Staron's Troop 76 took another trip to a candy factory. This time the girls toured Sars. Margaret Godley, Karen Kirby, Nancy Staron, Diane Hall, Judy Martin, Sherry Wood, and Joan Roberts each came home with a half-pound box of assorted chocolates and perhaps a few achting tummies after sampling chocolates all along the line.

THE HILLIARDS are enjoying a visit from Eli's mother who is in Northern Michigan.

Lola Birnie was guest of honor at a surprise birthday party at her home last week.

Mr. Howard Ames and son Michael are recuperating after being fished the seriously ill list. Mr. Ames had a severe case of tonsillitis and Michael had pluresy and virus pneumonia.

Albert Kirby is back home after spending some time at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor for observation and tests. He is getting along better but has not been able to return to school as yet.

Barbara and Chuck Fritz spent the weekend skiing at Boyne Mt. This was Barbara's second time on the slopes and she is excited. This time she went to the top of the mountain where you "eat with the pros at Joes". From the top of the mountain you either come down on skis or walk. Barbara did a little of both, but in spite of a few achting muscles she can hardly wait for the next time.

MRS. RUTH Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fitzlaff from Manistee, aunts and uncle of Bud are visiting with the Radkies this week.

Just heard we have some fashion models in our midst. Jean Immekus, Dorothea Hebe and Gwen Wrigley were three of the models in a fashion show by Maurice at the Spring Salad Smorgasboard sponsored by the Northwest Detroit Branch of the Women's Garden Association.

A Classified Ad in The Farmington Enterprise Will Contact Over 13,000 Potential Customers in the Farmington Area.

REMEMBER

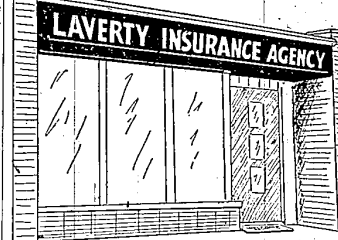
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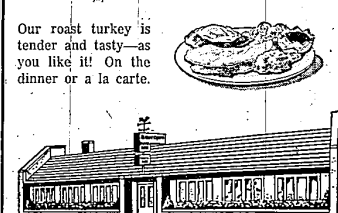
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Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

15 Years Ago
MARCH 23, 1945
Township Meeting
Members of the township board held a regular meeting Tuesday evening and granted approval of a Supervisor's plan of Quaker Valley Farms presented by George W. Smith and Mr. McAlpine.

Upon motion of Mrs. E. McCallough, Justice of the Peace, the board voted to proceed with plans for a city at township library. The state will match the \$200 proposed expenditure by the city and township for cost of having plan prepared.

Red Cross Drive
Farmington has now completed \$10,000 of its \$100,000 Red Cross Drive quota, according to Mrs. Joseph DeVinci, chairman of the drive.

10 Years Ago
MARCH 23, 1950
Name Two Girls
Two girls, Margaret Ann Plimpton and Suzanne Labadie have been named valedictorian and salutatorian respectively of the 1950 Farmington High School graduating class.

The announcement was made at the National Honor Society induction held at Farmington High School.

Both girls have been active in extra-curricular activities at well as maintaining high scholastic averages.

5 Years Ago
MARCH 24, 1955
Sorrow's High School
Contracts were awarded last Thursday for construction of the new high school building for Our Lady of Sorrow's Parish. Construction will start as soon as weather permits.

The building will contain usable class space for 20 classrooms; a large kitchen-cafeteria and administrative offices. Plans call for a unique triangular layout made possible by taking advantage of the differences in grade levels between the front and back of the school located on Powers Road just south of 10 Mile Road.

At the entrance of the building at grade level will be a spacious lobby adjacent to the administrative offices, a large storage room, a conference room and teachers rest rooms.

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

Yesterday—"Getting Acquainted"

Natural GAS was first used as a source for light—years later it was used industrially—and many years later it became known as a fuel for homes. At the time of World War II, people were just beginning to get acquainted with the "miracles" of Natural GAS!

Today—"At Home"

Exciting changes have taken place in the Natural GAS industry since World War II. Every minute of every day it is a direct benefit to the average American—it preserves and cooks food, washes dishes and disposes of garbage, warms homes in winter and cools them in summer! Natural GAS is now Nature's greatest gift to modern living!

The Natural GAS industry offers seven "at home sunshine" services—cooking, water heating, space heating, refrigeration, air conditioning, laundering and gas incineration. Write or call Consumers Power Company to learn how Natural GAS can serve you.

GET THE FACTS—BETTER YET—GET GAS!