

Editorially Speaking

"We Didn't Know" Usually Poor Excuse

"We weren't informed that this was going to be done." "Nobody told us anything about that."

These, or statements very similar to them, we've heard time and time again in our news newspaper.

When complaints such as this are voiced we usually try to look back and see just how much publicity was given to the matter being referred to. Occasionally we will find that a matter was not given as complete or as detailed publicity as it should have been. But, in most cases we find that very good publicity had been given and that the story or stories were displayed in prominent though spots in the paper so that anyone who really cared shouldn't have missed them.

It had been quite a while since we last heard the "we weren't aware of it" comment and we were beginning to feel that this excuse was perhaps becoming a thing of the past at least in this community.

Last week, however, we were hit right at the face with a case of this kind. At a special meeting of the Township Board a week ago Monday, residents living in the southwest corner of the township voiced strong protests to the construction of a sewer arm on a special assessment basis to serve their area. It was a last minute, desperation protest and the matter had already passed the public hearing stage and was ready for final action.

When asked why they had not made their objections to this project known earlier, the residents quickly and almost unanimously replied that they were not made aware of the fact that such a special assessment project was in the works or given all the facts on the proposed project.

These are statements that would bother any conscientious newspaperman so we did a little checking during the past week and came up with some interesting facts.

On May 28, 1955, a front page lead story was run announcing the awarding of contracts for the main sewer interceptor. Also appearing in this same issue was a large map showing the approximate route of each of the proposed projects and the fact that the township to be laid later on a special assessment basis.

It would seem logical to assume that any really interested landowner would have started checking shortly after this date to keep abreast of proposed projects in his area and learn all that he could as fast as he could about what effect the program was going to have on him personally and how soon.

The February 11, 1955, issue carried a lead front page story on progress on the sewer interceptor itself as well as an accompanying story revealing the

fact that petitions were being circulated for the proposed Eight Mile-Halsted Arm. The Feb. 25 issue's lead story on the proposed special assessment project, however, there were three more front page stories run announcing the date for the hearing and giving other details. In addition to this, official legal notices of the hearing were published.

With this kind of publicity having been given, we fail to see how anyone can justifiably say they didn't know.

Right to Complain

Everyone has a right to complain. This is a privilege that cannot rightfully be denied anyone in a free country.

Yet, on far too many matters, a majority of the citizenry do not deserve the right to exercise this privilege.

A good example was provided locally last week when the Farmington school election was held. It was a very important election since three of the seven elected officials who will direct the operations of our public school system in the years ahead were chosen.

Despite the importance of this election, over 65 percent of the adult population in the district who were qualified to select the three best candidates in a field of nine could not spare 15 minutes to a half-hour of their time to go out to the polls and do so. The big decision was left up to the remaining less than 15 percent.

It would seem only fair that those persons who cared enough to vote for board of education candidates should have a right to complain about any actions taken or policies set by the board. But, as was stated earlier, this is not the case. It is a privilege granted to everyone—both the deserving and undeserving.

We have always wondered how many more people would take the time to vote if the names of all persons casting ballots in a particular election were posted in several public places following that election. It is a list that we would like very much to see.

As the complaints came in on one particular matter, such as action taken by the school board, then we could check to see whether the party voicing the complaint actually had a real right to do so.

Although there is no law that says so, we still feel that only those people who care enough to vote on matters or candidates for office have any rights to complain later.

At Home in Old Homestead

Jacqueline Davis
GR. 4-1230

Now that school is out for the summer, it is the feeling that the subdivision has been suddenly over-run with children? The one hundred and thirty-five of five and six year olds and most of them will be here most of the next two and one half months do just get used to the idea.

A week ago Wednesday, Lawrence Baker was the recipient of her family's attention for her fifth birthday. Evening guests for cake and ice cream consisted of her parents, aunts, uncles and cousins total seven. Congratulations to Dorothy and Frank Furlong who celebrated their thirty second wedding anniversary on Friday.

A WEEK AGO Monday Ann Franklin's brother, Mike, and his wife, Edna, and their two children of Detroit arrived at the Franklin home for a two week visit. Mike has enrolled in the driver training classes given at Farmington and will be coming home before returning home.

The Smorgasbord Supper on Saturday was a big success. Old Homestead's wonderful cooks constructed a feast for the community's skills much to the delight of those present. Forty-five residents gathered at the Morgan for the dinner which was followed by local music, dancing and conversation. Doretta Adcock played the piano during the early part of the evening. Some of the more hardy party goers kept things lively until dawn.

During the dinner the Simons, Shirley and Bill, were serenaded with Happy Anniversary songs by the members of the church choir. This was followed by Happy Birthday to Jean Latimer who admits to being six years old.

AMONG THOSE who were unable to attend the Smorgasbord were Jean Nankervis who took part in the Tenth Anniversary Reunion of the 1950 graduating class of the High School in Wyandotte. The Reunion was held at the Henrose Hotel in downtown Detroit.

"The Odds", Charles and Ann, celebrated their 40th Anniversary Reunion of the 1940 graduating class of Southwestern High School in Detroit that night. Approximately two hundred and twenty guests and their husbands and wives were present for the dinner dance at the Yvelens Memorial Building in Detroit.

The Odette's youngest son, Brian, celebrated his second birthday a day late on Father's Day so that his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Roe, could be present for the double occasion.

A second birthday party was held on Father's Day at the Brock home. The fifteen guests came from Detroit, Utica, Windsor and Ann Arbor. Ontario for the party which honored Robin, her third birthday actually fell on June 13, and who will be eight on Wednesday, June 15.

The Kofs, John, Janet, Susan, John, James, Michael, Mary Ann, and Jackie drove to Austin on Saturday morning to spend the weekend with Janet's Aunt, Mrs. Ruth McNeill. After a pleasant visit, they returned home Sunday night.

EIGHT YEAR old Robbie Riebs lost the decision to a bee on Saturday. By Sunday morning the reaction to the bee sting had caused his head to swell and he became quite ill. His treatment given by Yvette, Rob's mother, was, "My mother and I got him in a good all day long".

Some time ago a water all national complaint was made to the special committee that it considered the women residents had neglected the men. As a result a stag party in the form of a steak roast is in the planning stages for Saturday, July 16. It promises to be quite a success judging from the initial response to the idea. Mark the date on your calendars, men, there will be a fine time to look forward to.

Tuesday, found Stan and Therese Gibbs celebrating their eighth wedding anniversary.

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication should be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Complains About Sewer Assessment

Gentlemen: I have before me a notice dated June 2, 1955 from the Township Board, the developers of Kendallwood, Michigan, informing me that the special assessment roll for the Farmington Sewage Disposal System has been prepared and confirmed at \$86.75 for my lot in Kendallwood No. 3 subdivision. I have noticed in the past from remarks made by the local officials, the Farmington Enterprise, etc., that silence is taken as approval. Nobody complains so it must be all right. That is the complaint about the foregoing special assessment as well as a number of other items that are cropping up in this township.

I protest against the \$86.75 assessment which was "sold" to the people of Kendallwood on the basis of a \$250 assessment levied for the interceptor sewer and \$50 per lot additional for the connecting arm. The final amount of the special assessment for the connecting arm represents an increase of almost double the original amount mentioned. This unbelievable increase is an outrage against the taxpayers of this community. Not one person in Kendallwood could stay in business or hold a job operating in this manner. I strongly urge the Township Board to reconsider the connecting arm unit new bill can be obtained bringing the actual cost closer to the original figure.

Springland School Needs

MRS. RALPH EVERT
GR. 4-0278

Attention - I miss your news items, members of surrounding areas, Fort Hills, Pasadena and all surrounding areas of Springland. Hoping to hear from you, your correspondent.

Now, to the news we do have this week Mrs. William Ashdown of Springland Drive is organizing a cake decorating class with classes beginning July 12 at 8 p.m. with a limited enrollment. For further information call GR 8-0188.

The annual Springland civic association picnic will be held at approximately 100 residents last Sunday at Kensington Park. Disregarding the inclement weather of the day, games were played as scheduled and it was reported that Robert Hader did a wonderful job of directing the day's activities.

MRS. JAMES VAIRO of Springland Drive recently spent three weeks in Denver, Colorado visiting daughter Sharon. One of the highlights of the stay there was the graduation ceremony at the University of Colorado where Sharon received her Master of Science degree. Sarah will be working at Sinal Hospital in Detroit during the summer. Paul Vairo left June 15 for Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

William McIlutich and son of Springland Drive are presently serving in the youth group of the youth group at Forest Hills Missionary Church. The group plans camping spots at various sites in the upper peninsula.

Confidantes to Janet McFlintin and Jay Smith of Springland Drive. Both youngsters acquired broken right arms recently.

Garden chemicals give best results if you follow common sense rules in handling them. Use preventive sprays to combat invisible garden pests that can't be seen until their damage is done. Do a thorough job of spraying each year on several levels and on both sides of leaves. Be sure the weather is right - spray efficiency is cut down if the wind is too strong or if it rains too soon after treatment.

Subscribe in The Enterprise

Wood Creek Farms Village

ANNE M. PHILLIPS
MA. 6-535

Bob Weaver's brother, Bill, and wife Juanita, drove from Amherst, Mass. arriving here the 20th. They will be driving on to Indiana, Jamaica visiting her family in Kokomo and Bill going on to Purdue for a panel discussion.

Diane Marcus, David and Kathy Marcus left Monday morning for Lincoln where they will spend several weeks with their grandmother. Dick goes up the first of the coming week and will work at the Last Lake Woods Club. Dick graduated from Berkeley High School last week.

Robert Walker graduated from Farmington High School and the day following that important event he had his 18th birthday. Many of his friends dropped in for ice cream and cake.

GARY SEVAKIS was 8 on the 18th. He had a group of school friends, including Gary Collier of Wood Creek, in to celebrate his birthday. They had their own hamburgers and played games. The Sevakis have acquired an '84 Ford outdoor motor boat and are looking to take the boat out on Lake St. Denis and his father have just completed a 10 week skin diving course and are very anxious to take the boat out and go skin diving on their own.

It is always busy at the Biekers and this past week was no exception. Saturday night they had Open House. About 20 of Bill's school friends dropped in for sloppy Joes, and a piece of the cake made by Mary McDonald and decorated with a blue and white tassel - the tassel was real - a diploma rolled up with mint green and ivory ribbons, the class colors and decorated with yellow roses, blue and yellow being the school colors - and all but the tassel of frosting.

JUNE'S BROTHER, his wife and daughter, the Wm. Gary Jr. family, also came out to help celebrate June's birthday, which fell on Father's Day this year, and the Bob's birthday was yesterday.

Ethel and Roy Nelson went to the Metropolitan Airport Monday afternoon to meet Ethel's niece, Barbara Jean Cipriani, who flew from Los Angeles for a visit here. Barbara is the oldest daughter in a family of six children, is an honor student at the school. Her Aunt Ethel is looking forward to this visit with her. She will celebrate her 16th birthday while here - it comes on the 20th of this month.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Ever Have That "Sinking" Feeling?

You probably know that "chip" Walter was just appointed swimming instructor at the Boys Club. Seems in his first group, he had three youngsters who were hesitant even about the shallow end of the pool. They said "we'd sink". Of course, Chip didn't try to force them - he demonstrated. He jumped in, popped right up, explained that body buoyancy had pushed him back to the surface.

However, one of the youngsters shook his head in disbelief. "Gee," he said, "I sure

hope Mr. Buoyancy is still down there when I jump in."

From where I sit, whoever said "experience is the best teacher" was right. For instance, I think all of us know through experience - how important "tolerance" is between neighbors. In little things too, like not expecting your neighbor to choose a variety of eggs and your respecting his choice of an occasional glass of beer. The way to swim isn't sink - as friends!

Joe Marsh

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To remove stains: Let sodium perborate bleach of soak in cool water for 30 min. hydrogen peroxide. Old ink stains or longer. The rub - stains are difficult to remove. liquid detergent, full strength into the stain, and rinse. 11. Dickie Lou Market has the stain remains, use a chlorine-cold beer in town.

REMEMBER

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Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago

JUNE 21, 1945

Playground Program

The summer playground program for youngsters in the Farmington area got underway Monday with 25 boys and girls answering the roll. Youngsters will participate in morning activities while the older youngsters will play in the afternoon.

10 Years Ago

JUNE 22, 1939

Population Like

The city of Farmington has 43 percent more people now than it had when a special census was taken only three years ago, according to census figures released Tuesday. The new city population has been put at 2,913. No figures were available on population in the Township.

5 Years Ago

JUNE 23, 1950

Bond Contract

Arrangements are now being made between the Farmington Township School District and the bonding company on the draft of a new construction contract for the completion of the gymnasium-auditorium addition to the high school.

4 Years Ago

JUNE 24, 1951

Ground Breaking

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Trinity Episcopal Church will take place next Sunday at 10 a.m. at the site of the new church. Rev. James B. Guinan, pastor.

3 Years Ago

JUNE 25, 1952

Recreation Program

The Farmington summer recreation program will get underway Monday morning with the registration figures indicating a record number of youngsters participating in the program.

2 Years Ago

JUNE 26, 1953

Elect Rickert

At the annual reorganization meeting of the Clarenceville Recreation Board last week Robert Rickert was elected president for 1955-56.

1 Year Ago

JUNE 27, 1954

In Music Festival

Rosemary Heath, ninth grade student at Farmington High School, performed in the 12th annual Michigan Music Festival held last Sunday at Olympia Stadium in Detroit.

The Farmington Enterprise

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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

Air-Conditioning, Today

In the early 1900's the first forced-air gas furnace suggested today's principles of air-conditioning. Inventive minds in the gas industry have made revolutionary advances. Now more need for slaves or mountaintop luxury everyone can afford. The royal luxury of a refreshingly-cool home - with Gas air-conditioning. Just one of the many benefits of low-cost, dependable Natural Gas.

Through the ages Man has shown a desire to defeat the heat. As early as 200 A.D. a Roman emperor had his slaves bring snow from the mountains, discarding his dignities, he romped in it for cool relief. Others had their summer palaces packed with snow and slaves. Turned into huge fans. We read that it is like the first bath with water for relief from heat rather than for cleansing.

Low-cost gas air-conditioning means any home a summer haven from hot-weather irritations. Natural Gas - the ideal household fuel - heats and cools year-round. Call or write your Consumers Power Company to learn how many ways Natural Gas can serve you.

GET THE FACTS - BETTER YET - GET GAS!