

Editorially Speaking

Annual Township Meetings Dangerous

Primary elections are not normally noted for attracting a big turnout of electors but the Primary coming up on August 2 of this year should lead out an exceptionally number of township voters.

In addition to nominating candidates for the various offices in the party of their choice, township voters will be asked to approve a proposition calling for the abolishment of the township's annual meetings.

It is an important question to be decided upon and one which deserves immediate attention. Far too many people living in our community know little if anything about annual township meetings. Most of the residents who have come here in the past decade have come from areas which functioned under a city form of government and have had no reason to be concerned or know about such meetings.

Only recently we heard them termed as "an outmoded relic of the horse and buggy era." This kind of thinking we can't go along with even though we are strongly advocating the abolishment of such annual township meetings here.

The annual township meeting was established by the Legislature in 1848. The purpose of these annual meetings was to provide every citizen with an opportunity to keep informed on what their elected local officials were doing. It was and still is a very good example of true democracy in action.

But, as was the case back in the 19th century, it is with a very notable exception that it is never intended to be functional in a heavily populated area. This system of true democracy was designed for rural or sparsely settled areas. In farmland sections, the annual meeting was, and is now, a meeting for all to get together and discuss common problems as well as hearing an accounting for the past year of actions taken by neighbors they had selected to represent them in regard to governmental affairs.

People raised in cities who have been used to electing officials and letting them run the government are not likely to ever become accustomed to the idea that they should attend a meeting once a year to hear what their local officials have been doing and tell them what they would like done. This can be easily illustrated by looking back into the records of the number of persons in attendance at Farmington Township's annual meeting during the past five or six years.

None of the meetings during this time have attracted more than 250 people. At the annual meeting this past Spring there were only about 150 present.

Now, some very important and controversial issues can be brought up at these annual meetings. And the decision of the majority at the meeting is binding.

It is quite obvious to see the dangers of allowing a situation of this kind to continue where one or two percent of the voters make decisions which the whole community must abide by and which are supposed to be representative of the whole community's wishes. It

should also be quite easy to see how a small pressure group could use the annual meeting to push through one of its own projects. Usually these pressure group projects are not good for the community-at-large despite efforts by our elected officials to prevent the same.

True democracy, such as the annual township meeting was designed to provide for, is just not workable in a community as large as Farmington Township. We urge you to go to the polls August 2 and vote to abolish them.

Each citizen will still have his rights to appear at any of the regular meetings of the Township Board and express his views on matters which are of concern to him, provided he is willing to follow the methods of procedure prescribed for so doing. Citizens' rights will not be taken away but rather protected by abolishment of the annual meetings.

Closer Estimating

Premature or not, close enough estimating on costs of community or betterment projects can and is causing a lot of distrust, dissatisfaction and unrest in our community.

The big trouble area right now is in connection with costs being assessed against property owners for construction of a new sewer line to the Farmington Interceptor Sewer. There have been other cases in the past, however, of cost estimates running somewhat lower than the actual cost. A general feeling appears to be developing that all preliminary cost estimates being given out are being set too low and should not be accepted.

The reasons for having to make higher assessments on homeowners for construction of the Kendallwood Sewer Arm given out by the Oakland County Department of Public Works last week seem logical enough. The only question is why some of the things which will result in the higher cost for the projects were not taken into consideration and some allowances made for them before preliminary estimates were announced publicly.

Few would expect a cost-to-the-penny estimate in the preliminary planning stages of a project. It is just not logical and too costly to do a complete engineering job on a project the size of the area sewer project now going ahead before it is even certain the project will become a reality. But, when asked to pay for a project which is higher than the original estimates given, it is only natural for people to suspect that low preliminary estimates were made only for the purpose of selling the project.

Stung once on estimates far lower than actual, citizens become critical of all estimates on future plans. Although the first project may sell more easily by using low estimates, it becomes twice as hard to sell future projects or programs.

We can only hope that more careful estimating will be done on any future improvement projects submitted on so that any feelings of distrust which have developed in the past will be dispelled in the future.

Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago
JULY 19, 1945

Seek Dump Location
Members of the Farmington Township Board discussed possible locations for a new dump within the township as the one formerly used is no longer available. No site was selected at Tuesday's meeting.

Bond Sale
Final figures were released this week by Joseph Himmelsbach, chairman of the bond sale in Farmington for the new 131,000 series B bonds were sold during the drive. The quota for this sale was set at \$150,000.

No Hiwails Convention
There will be no Hiwails convention this year. It was announced recently. Replacing it will be the division conference at which each club will be represented by three delegates.

Band Concert
A large crowd attended the second band concert of the Farmington Band Tuesday at the Farmington High School. Band leader, Harold G. Groat, was assisted by William Groat, Jr., James Bates, alto sax, and Albert Sadness, accordion.

Following the 45 minute concert the Torrid Five played for dancing in the high school auditorium.

Alumni Workshop
Mrs. Florence Leach, Farmington Public Library librarian, is attending a workshop for librarians being held at Higgins Lake.

Jeep Tests Here
Farmington has been the center of a farm inspection during recent weeks to determine

various post war uses of the military "Jeep" on the farm.

10 Years Ago
JULY 20, 1950
City Manager Rule
The first step toward the establishment of Council-Manager type government in the City of Farmington was taken Wednesday evening by the City Commission when they unanimously approved a resolution of intention to place the question of whether or not the City Charter should be changed on the regular November ballot.

The following officers were elected at the annual Groves Walker Post American Legion meeting July 16 at the Legion Memorial Home:
Charles Willard, Senior Vice-Commander; Charles Larson, Junior Vice-Commander; Del Collier, Chaplain; Jack Benson, Historian; Phil Thomas, Sergeant-at-Arms; Elmer Catherman. Delegates to the state convention were also named.

Baseball Clinic
Highlight of this week's Farmington Recreation Program will be a special Junior League Baseball Clinic to be held at the Farmington athletic field this Friday, according to William Nuse, director. Warren Piche, former minor league ball player, will be in charge of the clinic.

Elect Dr. Egan
Dr. F. D. Egan, Farmington veterinarian, has been elected president of the Michigan State Veterinarian Medical Association.

Dog Quarantine
A dog quarantine has been

placed on the entire Township and will be enforced through the rabies station.

Township Fire Station
The Farmington Township Board re-opened talks on the possible establishment of a branch fire station in the Farmington area. No definite action was taken at the meeting.

5 Years Ago
JULY 1, 1954
Bel-Aire Grading
The City Council at its regular meeting Monday evening authorized the City Manager to contact Al Green, developer, in an effort to speed final grading in the southern portion of the Bel-Aire subdivision in accordance with the agreement and grade plan submitted to the Council.

Staman Acres

GAIL TAYLOR
GR. 4-0949

Entrance grass cutters for the well-blended and the William Blackleys. Those for the month of August are the Dick Burke family and the Jack Burke family. They will be out of town or unable to cut for any reason when your turn comes up, just arrange to trade with a neighbor so the entrance will stay neat and good looking.

"We would like to extend our most sincere sympathy and understanding to the Klopps in the recent sudden passing of Peter's father, Mr. Peter R. Klopp, Sr. (Leo, Margaret, Stuart, and Steve) recently returned from Killarney, Canada, after a week's stay there."

LAST SUNDAY, Ray and Millie Unks, Wendell and Alice Turner, and Leo and Margaret Sivry went to Wheeler's cottage on Strawberry Lake for a picnic.

"Paul, Fran, Jane, and Chris Christensen have returned from a two week vacation in Florida. While in Florida they stayed with Paul's parents in Bradenton and also did a lot of sight seeing throughout the state."

Ale, and Mrs. John F. Cross returned last week from a month's vacation in the west, including Hawaii. They flew to Seattle, Washington, June 12, where they stayed until June 15, saw the sights around Seattle. They then flew to Honolulu for a week at the Surf Rider Moana Hotel on Waikiki Beach. While in Honolulu they saw all the sights, shopped, and did a lot of eating.

After their week's stay, they hopped on the Lurline Steamship for San Francisco and San Francisco. Their next stop was Los Angeles to visit Tom and Sherill, their son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren. From Los Angeles they made their last stop in Los Alamitos and Long Beach where they visited relatives. The trip was ended by a flight home by jet which Mrs. Cross said is just like flying in your own living room.

Bev and Jim Ellis had guests last week from Trenton, New Jersey, the Howard Edwards. Jimmy Ellis returned home from a stay at Houghton Lake with his grandparents also last week.

JIM HAINES had a barbecue party a week ago today. The 10 guests, dined, ale, and had loads of fun. The guests were: Alena Siensul, Stuart Sivry, Nancy Sivry, and Mrs. Sivry. Jim Stuart, Chris Christensen, Ritchie Jane Taylor, Pat Bragg, Brian Dates, and Jack Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ware were the guests of the Red Cross for a week. The Floyd Wares are from Los Angeles, California.

The Natt Kede family spent a week in New York attending the R.A.O. convention and vacationing there after it.

The Knowles have guests from Connecticut visiting: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Yansky of Brookfield, Conn., and Mrs. Arnold Waite of Naugatuck, Conn. They are staying for about one week.

Lois and Chris Dorando have returned from a 3 week stay at the grandparents in Detroit. Birthdays celebrated recently were Gail Taylor's 17th, July 9, with a barbecue, and Sharon Schille's 18th, July 8th, with a family dinner at Joe Marsh's.

MRS. MARILYN MILLER is visiting at the Schupoli home for a week.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Griffith and Miss Bea Burness from Port Huron, Indiana, visited the Taylors recently.

Have you been on a trip lately? Visited out of town friends? Had a birthday? Out of town guests? Appear? Any news at all, but be careful! Just give me a call!

Of the 27 million American workers who get a daily coffee break, better than 16 million don't have to leave their desks for work breakers. Their coffee is brought to them. Coffee drinking in the U. S. reached its highest level in history last year. Total consumption was more than 390 million cups a day.

Buy in Farmington
25255 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan
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Irv Ross of Ross Shoes

Meet Your Merchants

Irv Ross, proprietor of Ross Shoes in the Farmington, Fla., is thoroughly convinced that the Farmington area has a greater growth potential than any other community in greater Detroit. Irv has two other stores, one in Detroit at Southfield and Joy and the other in St. Clair Shores. Though he didn't come right out and say it, his conversation indicated that the Farmington store was his favorite spot. At any rate he indicated that the people served by the Farmington store are the type he likes to deal with.

Ross pointed out that the local people are more easily convinced than the average shopper, and that they seek good service as well as top grade merchandise.

THE FACT that his stores operate on the principle that the customer must be 100% satisfied during and after a sale is probably the reason why he enjoys the challenge of meeting the demands of discriminating customers, who know what they want in a two week vacation in Florida. While in Florida they stayed with Paul's parents in Bradenton and also did a lot of sight seeing throughout the state.

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IRV ROSS

Wood Creek Farms Village

ANNE M. PHILLIPS MA. G-6335

The Hel-Ray, or Reuse Special, is a cabin cruiser large enough to sleep 10 or 12. Ray supervised its construction at his plant, then brought it out here where they painted it, polished it, and put on the finishing touches before putting it in the water at Lake St. Clair. That is why it is so difficult to find anyone home at the Reises.

Charlotte and Bill Thompson with Jerry drove Dick out to Madison, Wis. for orientation tests at the U. of Wisconsin. Dick will enter the university in September. They stopped at Fort Atkinson to visit friends on the way home, teaching here a week ago Sunday.

THE WEAVERS are keeping very happily busy as they have two of their grandchildren, Laurie and Cheryl, both with them for two weeks while their parents move into a new home in Grand Rapids.

The Women's Association summer picnic was held last week Tuesday at Mary Cook's. The weather was beautiful if a little on the cool side, but at least 40 gathered for a delightful swim in the pool. It was Frances Richard's birthday. Also was very nice to see Marian Lam's Aunt Nell and mother again. Her mother came dressed in the square costume she had made to wear as delegate from Kansas of the National

NOVI NEWS

By MRS. GEORGE WAITE
FI. 2-2389

William Hanson, son Bobby and family moved to Ohio on Sunday. The Henry Hills and Henry's brother, George and wife were visiting this week with old friends and neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Evans and their daughter, Rene, accompanied by some cousins spent the weekend at his home in Ohio.

Mrs. David O'Leary of New Hudson passed away in Florida and the body was shipped back to Farmington. Her services were held Wednesday at 2 p.m. with burial in Oakland Hills Cemetery. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lathair and she leaves her husband, two brothers and a host of other relatives.

Charles Johnson of Wixom passed away at the Novi Convalescent Home Saturday evening. He is the father of Mrs. Shirley Hultz of Farmington.

John Thayer spent the weekend at the home of his uncle and aunt, the George Walters.

The barn on the Don Hines farm burned to the ground Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Masters have a little daughter born this past week. Both mother and baby are doing fine.

The unfortunate thing about this world is that good habits are so much easier to get out of than bad ones.

After the first practical use of Natural Gas, it was clearly evident that this stored Sunshine was a vital asset to home and industry. The fact that it could only service communities near the productive GAS fields, spurred engineering experiments and private enterprise to overcome transmission obstacles.

Now the super-abundance of Natural Gas in a few states can be shared by all states! Engineers have 100 years figuring out how to transport GAS just 100 miles—yet 30 years later, it is transported 2,000 miles! Pumping and transmission—two major problems—have been successfully solved.

In 1870, a wooden pipeline 25 miles long was an accomplishment! At the beginning of 1959, the industry had enough miles of pipeline to circle the earth 22 times! In Consumers Power Company's area alone, there are 7,000 miles of pipeline.

GET THE FACTS - BETTER YET - GET GAS!

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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

"Sunshine Subway"

Now the super-abundance of Natural Gas in a few states can be shared by all states! Engineers have 100 years figuring out how to transport GAS just 100 miles—yet 30 years later, it is transported 2,000 miles! Pumping and transmission—two major problems—have been successfully solved.

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