

Editorially Speaking

We Have School Systems to Be Proud Of

School doors have been opened again for another year and all youngsters are back in their classrooms to add another volume of knowledge to the personal library — their own human minds.

All children in grades 1 through 12 in both the Farmington and Clarenceville public school systems are attending their schools on full-day sessions. We were just wondering how many residents of this area have stopped to think how fortunate they really are. There are several school systems in the Detroit metropolitan area and in some other sections of the state which have at least some grades, and in a few cases all, on half-day schedules.

How fortunate Farmington area residents really are was brought home very strongly only a few short days ago by publicity given about the unfortunate situation that two other school systems in this area find themselves in.

In Dearborn Township, the beautiful new 43-classroom Hamilton J. Robichaud High — complete with gym, auditorium and swimming pool — will remain closed. There will be 1,850 students in Dearborn Township's School District No. 8 where the school was built who will be forced to continue to attend overcrowded Roosevelt High for another year. Residents have twice refused to authorize additional taxes to pay for teachers and maintenance personnel which would permit opening of the new school.

The Hazel Park public school system finds itself in somewhat of a similar situation. They too built a beautiful new high school during the past year. But less than two weeks ago the same people who approved the sale of bonds to build the school rejected an increase in the operating levy. Now Hazel Park school officials are doubtful that they will have enough money to keep a sufficient number of teachers employed to make full use of the building.

Not more than six or seven years ago, the Farmington public school system was also in the position of having to put them in. The Board of Education and administration set out to correct the situation as soon as possible and did. Through some long range planning and an exceptionally good selling job to the general public they were not only able to catch up on school building needs but also able to keep pace with the yearly enrollment increases. The Clarenceville school has also done the same in a very similar manner.

Both the Farmington and Clarenceville school boards and administrative staffs are to be commended for the fine job they have done in keeping pace with the rapid population build-up in this area.

The real credit, however, must go to each and every taxpayer who has gone to the polls time and time again in the past few years and approved increases in his school tax rate to assure that every child will have the best possible education under the best possible classroom conditions. All indications are that rapid population increases are going to continue in this area for several more years yet.

We sincerely hope that school officials will continue to exercise care with the spending of every dollar they receive and that they will provide the greatest number of classrooms and best possible teachers they can with it. They

will have to continue to stand firm against pressure to get swimming pools, tennis courts and other "extras" built instead of more classrooms.

It has been said that children lose little by being on half-day sessions. We disagree strongly with this statement. We know of many older residents here who can recall their youngsters going to school on the split-session basis of a few years back and are sure that most of them would agree with us.

More bond issue propositions to provide additional classrooms and operating funds are forthcoming, you can be sure. As long as school officials continue to spend wisely, we hope that taxpayers will continue to find it possible to shell out a little more in school taxes as the need presents itself. Nothing is more important today than providing our younger generation with the best possible education we can for them.

Project Planning

In a growing area such as ours, community betterment projects seem to be pretty much of a continual thing. A mix and match projects are usually going on simultaneously.

When there are a number of projects in the works at the same time like this, some seem to get lost in the shuffle. Even the best of planning won't eliminate this problem entirely but a little better scheduling and record keeping on the various projects might help the situation a little.

In our opinion, far too many projects in the city, township or school district in recent years have either gotten lost in the shuffle or been forgotten until very, very late and then have had to be done hurriedly and usually under pressure.

The city sidewalk improvement project provides a good example. A year ago, almost to the day, action was taken by the City Council directing the city manager to determine places where new walks and walk improvements would be needed throughout the city.

It was indicated at that time that places where such improvements would be needed would be determined within two weeks time or less. The plan was that notices would be sent out to property owners and if they did not get the work done within 30 days the work could still be completed by the city at the owner's expense yet that fall. Time slipped by and very little of the work got done before cold weather set in.

Again this spring the matter was brought up with the idea that the work would be completed in early summer.

Now we are crowding the fall season and it was only last week that some action was called for to hurry up and get the project done. Some of the walks were supposed to have been in to provide safe walkways for youngsters traveling to and from school. How much sidewalk will be laid before the time for safely pouring concrete elapses still remains to be seen but we are quite certain the entire project won't be completed this year.

Numerous other examples could be given.

Perhaps a list of each project called for by the governmental agency with spaces behind for monthly progress notes would help. A review of projects called for and not yet completed on a regularly scheduled basis would also be helpful.

Bel-Aire Hills

Sally Witt
GR. 6-0733

The fall school term has finally arrived and the sighs of relief can be heard from one end of the subdivision to the other. Now the boys and girls will have something purposeful to do each day instead of constantly repeating "What'll we do?" At the latest count there were 90 kindergartners enrolled this term, the majority of these little ones from Bel-Aire.

Again, the safety of these children going to and from school should be considered. It is understood that school safety boys will patrol the school crossing in the mornings and the afternoons. Only the mid-day school traffic is assigned to the Mothers Patrol this year. This means that mothers will be needed at 11:00 a.m. to guide the morning children going home and at 11:45 to watch over the afternoon children going to school.

Surely from 93 mothers there are at least 20 who could spare the time to devote to this patrol. The children need you. To volunteer your services call Judy at GR 4-6822. The phone number was incorrect in last week's column . . . that's GR 4-6822.

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS at 25914 Powers say they like Farmington very much and intend to stay for a long time. Louis and Ruth Oswald and their daughter, Ruthanne, 13, and son, Louis, Jr., 9, recently moved here from Cincinnati. An article about the Oswald family wouldn't be complete if we didn't mention Priscilla, their wonderful Siamese cat.

Paul and Cecil Schikora and family of Ely Court just returned from a wonderfully hectic weekend visiting with Cecil's mother, Mrs. Catherine Berch in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The highlight of the trip was the 15 year class reunion of Latrobe High 70 percent of the class attended. The Schikoras and a couple from Lincoln Park tied in a contest for traveling the longest distance. For this distinction they received a gift wrapped in wall paper and tied with tissue paper tied with beautiful yellow ribbon and a note that said "Michigan was a gas can with a compass on top. Paul and Cecil will treasure their prize forever! The reunion festivities were fun and it was grand to see so many old friends, they only wish it hadn't been such a short week end — the time just flew!

IT WOULD BE difficult to top the Gearing on his one About four weeks ago Pat began to plan a surprise birthday party for Bob. The party was set for Saturday the 26th. All was going well — the invitations had been sent; the refreshments were planned; and Bob seemed to know a thing or two about it. The day of the party Pat was feeling very low but Pat didn't give in — there were too many things to do. Mid-afternoon she noticed a few spots around her neck . . . one thing led to another and sure enough Pat was all decked out with the Gearing's! Conversations with doctors (more than one conversation and more than one doctor) indicated that everything could continue as planned. Expected mothers were notified just to be safe.

The party (even with all the confusion) was a huge success and a complete surprise to the host of home. The Gearing's, Elwood and Irene Sutter, Jerry and Joan Borchardt, Jerry and Fern Gynae, Ralph and Donna Keeler, Bill and Pat Fielding, from Farmington Acres and four very good friends from the East side thoroughly enjoyed the "winnie the pooh" theme. Even though Pat avoided everyone as if she had the plague, all who wished Bob "Happy Birthday" are now hoping they don't see any spots before their eyes.

The Gearing's have also done quite a bit of traveling — they even went so far as to make a bet for another subdivision in last week's news. We're bringing them back via the following news item and hope they're here to stay.

FM Radios for \$29.95 at Richard's TV Service, GR 4-9123.

Marked Broken Into — Corcoran's Market was broken into early Sunday morning and some money was taken from the cash registers, according to police.

Street Tax Collections — Approximately 93 percent of the total city tax statement was collected prior to the September 1 deadline. Kathryn Cooper, city treasurer, reported this week. This marked a new record.

Request Traffic Lights — The Farmington Township Supervisor, stated Tuesday that he would personally contact the Oakland County Road Commission to ask for traffic lights at the Ten and Twelve Mile intersections of Orchard Lake Road.

First Scrimmage — Two Farmington High School football teams squared off charged through their first intra-squad scrimmage last Monday morning in preparation for their season opener September 15 at Plymouth.

Sorrows Festival — Our Lady of Sorrows annual Festival will be held at the school grounds on Grand River near Orchard Lake Road.

Garbage Collection — Garbage collection in the city of Farmington is now underway and service will be rendered to every home and business place in the community. If you have been missed so far, please be patient as organization of the new system is not fully completed, a spokesman said.

Bill Root Chevrolet Inc.

Meet Your Merchants

Bill Root of Bill Root Chevrolet is a real veteran of the automobile business.

He started out in 1929 as a salesman for a Birmingham agency and later became sales manager and general manager of dealerships in the Detroit area, and then took over the reins of his own Chevrolet organization in May of 1956 right in the middle of the biggest automobile boom in the nation's history.

Bill could foresee the growth pattern taking place in the Farmington area when he was considering the move and he feels the future holds continued expansion of the community. The Bill Root organization sells approximately 75 percent of its automobiles to residents of the Farmington area.

THE ROOT FAMILY consists of Bill, his wife, Luella, and their son, Jerry. Mrs. Root has spent much of her spare time working as a Gray lady in hospitals. Jerry, who was named after the All Oakland County football team as a center last fall, is currently working for his dad but plans to enter Ferris Institute next winter to take business management.

Bill has no hobbies as such. He enjoys the automobile business and would just as soon be working as playing golf or fishing.

The Root organization at the present time is well stocked with new cars and very anxious to move them to get ready for the '61 models. Prices have been slashed way down from the model and clearance and new cars carry a 35,000 mile warranty plus 36 free lubrications.

ROOT IS extremely service conscious and takes pride in the fact that all his used cars are thoroughly reconditioned before being placed on the lot. The organization services all makes of cars and has about 20 employees connected with the car department. Complete body and painting services are also available.

Bill feels that service is the backbone of the automobile business and wants his customers to be completely satisfied on any job handled by his organization.

Traffic Deaths Rise in August

August's provisional traffic death toll of 137, exceeding by one, or seven per cent, the total of 128 for the month a year ago, makes it the sixth month this year in Michigan to show an increase over the comparable 1959 periods, according to the State Police.

The provisional eight-month total of 945 which includes deaths will increase, already exceeds by 57, or six per cent, the total of 888 in the corresponding 1959 time.

Delayed deaths have switched July, which provisionally showed a reduction to the increase column with 159 or seven per cent more than the 149 in the month a year ago.

MORE COMPLETE July figures show the 6,000 injuries are up by 1,335 or 32 per cent, and the 16,353 accidents increased by 524, or six per cent, compared to the month in 1959. July deaths and injuries are the highest for any month this year.

The accumulated record for the first seven months includes 808 deaths and 48,307 persons injured in 116,995 accidents, representing increases of 31, 46 and nine per cent respectively over the similar 1959 period.

To arrange for a Goodwill Industries pick-up trucks to Farmington is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 13. Goodwill trucks collect household odds and ends of clothing, shoes, hats, toys, most types of furniture and other household discards.

To arrange for a Goodwill Industries truck pick-up, call the local Goodwill representative Miss Joe LaFollette, telephone number GR 4-5254 or ask the operator for toll-free Enterprise 4-7002.

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MICHAEL J. BLOOMER, Editor
CLIFTON WIRTH, Advertising Manager
JOSEPH MULLEN, News Editor
VICTOR S. HOWARD, Plant Superintendent



BILL ROOT, Veteran Auto Man

FARMINGTON HILLS

MRS. DAVID KRINGS
GR. 6-0441

Sunday, August 28th, was a very special day in the lives of the Daniel Elliotts of Powers Road, for it was their 51st wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Mrs. Catherine Hamilton and her daughters Patsy and Karen and their son J. Douglas Elliott and wife and son Bruce, together with their niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Seal and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Doerner were on hand to make the day a memorable one.

They attended church together and then all had dinner out at one of the local restaurants. They returned to their home and spent the afternoon enjoying the many gifts, cards and best wishes received from their friends. A great many of these came from their many friends in Florida, where the Elliotts had been living for the five years preceding their return north and their purchase of the River home on Powers, last summer.

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An auto mechanic is like a doctor. The more familiar he becomes with your car the better he is able to diagnose and treat its ills. The Institute for Safer Living recommends choosing a good mechanic, one you know and trust, and place the responsibility for your car's safe and efficient performance in his hands.

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