

How the County Has Built Up a Special Fund

(The following is a reprint of an editorial which appeared in a recent issue of The Birmingham Eclectic. We are in agreement with the position expressed in this Eclectic editorial and join our neighboring community newspaper in urging public action to get the County Board of Supervisors to change their present practice in budgeting.)

In the middle of the Oakland County Service Center, out on Telegraph Road, next to the new Court Tower, there are visible signs of new construction.

It looks very much like a daddy long-legs because it is round with orange steel beams jutting out and down from its center.

Everyone knows that this is the beginning of the over-half-million dollar county auditorium. Yet, if you were to check the county budget, you wouldn't find it mentioned.

In order to find any mention of it at all, you would have to look at the May 7, 1962, minutes of the County Board of Supervisors. A resolution was passed that day awarding \$540,920 worth of contracts for its construction and authority to transfer \$385,612 to the building fund from the miscellaneous nontax revenue fund. The supervisors also resolved to take \$211,240 from the county's share of the property taxes and put it into the building fund for auditorium purposes.

The legality of these resolutions is not in question, nor is the right of the supervisors to put \$211,240 into a county building fund.

The area that should be questioned by every taxpayer is the county in which the county put \$385,612 extra in its miscellaneous nontax revenue account, which supposedly is shown and entirely accounted for in the county budget, and which supposedly was empty after the supervisors purchased land for the new dead jet airport.

There is no question in our minds where this money came from. Charles Sparks, our county treasurer, has been called a wizard for his ability to invest inactive county funds and bring interest into the county's coffers. Last year, he brought in over \$422,000. Yet, we all get shows only an anticipated \$220,000 this year.

The operation of the county clerk-

register of deeds office and other county services has brought in additional revenue, and these are also underestimated in the county's budget compared to actual receipts last year.

The money for the auditorium is only available because the County Board of Supervisors has continually and purposefully underestimated their nontax revenue each year giving them the surplus at the end. This has then allowed them to use this surplus for nonbudgeted items.

We feel that nontax or tax revenues are still the people's money and should only be used as provided in the county's budget, so the people can look at the expenditures and vote their opinions. This is why we have raised the point about the construction of the auditorium.

It is an appropriation of gigantic proportions that was passed without any effort to find out the will of the people in the situation.

The appropriation for its construction never appeared in a county budget, so the people never had a chance to point to it and say "no!"

It is an example of how a County Board of Supervisors can hold and use public funds by an accounting device which ends up making the taxpayer pay higher taxes. If a county money properly estimated, were included in the budget, the county would get less of our property tax dollars leaving more for schools and lessening the need for continual increased school millage proposals.

We feel that the money diverted for this project should have been turned into the general fund so the public could oversee its use.

We warned the public that this type of financing would happen in an editorial on this page last Spring. Nothing was done. Now our warning is a reality and if the public doesn't wake up and act now, it will happen again and again.

The public must force the County Board of Supervisors to honestly estimate nontax dollars in their budget and to use all county monies for the overall operation of the county (including capital outlay) and not some as a kitty for pet projects.



RECENT RESEARCH studies show that the average housewife walks more than 900 miles a year in her home. Part of this walking can be avoided by providing a kitchen planning center, with a desk (or use of the kitchen counter), bulletin board, good lighting, address and note pads, recipes, a telephone and directory. From this center the busy housewife can do her telephoning, plan meals, make out grocery lists and keep household records.

It's a Business For Housewife

Many homemakers today recognize that running a household is somewhat like operating a small business—and sometimes not too small at that.

Women increasingly are facing up to that fact, and are meeting the needs for home or office and office facilities through an "office" or planning center located in or adjacent to the kitchen.

The importance of the kitchen layout and planning area pointed up by home economists who say that a typical American housewife may spend from 30 to 40 percent of her waking day about the kitchen.

USEFUL ELEMENTS in a kitchen planning center area are a desk (the kitchen counter can do double duty as a desk), a bulletin board, a comfortable chair, good lighting, a clock, note pads and pencils, recipes, a telephone and a directory.

It's at this center that the busy housewife does her telephoning, plans meals, makes out grocery lists and keeps household records.

Having a telephone right at the heart of the planning center makes it easy for the housewife to keep in touch. She can conveniently keep up with her civic and social activities, carry out many kinds of shopping and take messages for other members of the family.

Recent nationwide studies show that the kitchen is one of the most favored locations for telephones.

THREE DIFFERENT types of instruments are now a part of the telephone set up. Most popular in the kitchen is a corded telephone, found in four colors—white, beige, yellow and pink. It can be placed above a counter top, on the side of a kitchen cabinet or on any convenient location.

FAH Program Attended Well

The first function of the Farmington Association for Handicapped Children for the 1962-63 school year, a pot luck supper, was attended by 120 parents, teachers and children at the Middlefield School, Wednesday, October 24.

After supper, movies were shown to the children while the parents and teachers held a business meeting in the multipurpose room.

NORMAN BURNS, president of the Association, presented the minutes of the Special Education for the Farmington Public Schools. Mr. Watson gave an overview of the Special Education program and answered questions. He also introduced the Special Education teachers.

Mr. Burns and members of the Association were highly complimented with the all-around success of the meeting and are looking forward to an active and profitable year.

After supper, movies were shown to the children while the parents and teachers held a business meeting in the multipurpose room.

5 Years Ago

November 1, 1957

Old Mill Closes

The oldest surviving business in Farmington, dating back to 1835, will close its doors for the last time on Saturday, the Farmington Mills business has served farmers in the community for more than 62 years.

The building and grounds of the old mill were purchased some time ago by the City as the proposed location of a future community center and until such a time as those plans can be realized it will serve as a community center. It was known back in 1835 when founded by Louis Gilemeister, had remained under the operation of the Gilemeister family. The founder's son, Leo R. Gilemeister, operated the business.

Show Plans Set By Club Women

On November 12, the North-west-Detroit Branch of Women's National Farm and Garden Association, Inc., will present "Que Pasa" featuring a Christmas flower arrangement demonstration by Mrs. Everett Higgs, president of Detroit Garden Center, at 12:30 p.m. in Mayflower Congregational Church, Curtis at Montclair.

Hostesses for the day will be Mesdames Frank Hayden, D. A. Brown and Oren C. Smith. Mrs. Oren C. Smith resides at 23029 Briar Hill in Farmington.

Workshops have been held throughout the fall to prepare for this holiday affair, with Mrs. Paul Keener and Mrs. Milton Levy as co-chairmen.

1963 Auto Plates to Go on Sale Nov. 1

New 1963 automobile license plates will be going on sale Nov. 1, Gerald Grace, manager of the local secretary of state's branch office, reminded this week.

This year, he pointed out, all commercial vehicles as well as all trailers weighing over 400 pounds will have to be reweighed.

The local secretary of state's branch office is located in the Grace Insurance Co. building on Grand River just east of the City Hall.

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Spencer is a graduate of Farmington High School and resides on Lilac Street with his wife, Barbara, and their three children. He is 27 years old and enjoys woodworking, electronics and music as hobbies. He was a first chair trumpet player in high school.

Sgt. Roy K. McLean Completes Course

Army Sgt. Roy K. McLean, 33, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. McLean, Farmington, recently completed the two-week chemical, biological and radiological course at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Sgt. McLean, radio relay unit chief in Company 3 of the 101st Airborne Division's 501st Signal Battalion at the fort, entered the Army in Sept. 1956.

He attended Cass Technical High School, Detroit.

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Springland News Briefs

FRANCES EVERT GR. 4-0278 CAROL SMITH GR. 4-8185

November 13 is the night for the next Friendship Club meeting. It will be held at Glenn Deloche's home on Springland Drive.

All residents of Springland will vote at Shawnee School District 6, at the General Election on November 6, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

RETURN Your dressed Goodfellow dolls to Carol Smith no later than Tuesday, November 6.

Cancer Pad Sewing will be held on Wednesday, November 7. Call Dorothy Love to find out where it will be held as the girls have been meeting at different homes lately. Their supply of white material is very low. A donation of any white fabric would be appreciated.

Mrs. Beryl Standley-Den Mother of Den 7 and Mrs. Norma Simons of Den 6 have combined Den recently. Boys in the Den are: Mark Sandley, Ted W. man, Joe Simons, David Christ, Richard Ryan and Chris Sudnik. All boys in the age group of 8 years to 11 years, who are interested in becoming a Cub Scout are asked to contact Mr. George Kubitsky, Pack 175, Organization Chairman, GR. 4-2483.

Don and Marvella McEachin spent a recent Saturday in East Lansing. They attended a West football game. After the game they dined with friends there. Marvella's father, Mr. E. J. Outley, who is visiting them from

ONE thing that Charlie is not at all sneaky about though, is where he gets his car fixed. He's got a car that's in top running order at all times and he tells everyone that he has us do all his auto repair work.

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On USS Enterprise In the Mediterranean

John E. Devine, seaman apprentice, USS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Devine of 23931 Alton, Farmington, is serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, which took part in the North Atlantic Treaty Training maneuvers recently in the Mediterranean.

The exercises, involving nearly 13,000 men and 23 ships, centered around the coast of Macedonia, Greece.

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