

MICHIGAN'S PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

Offer More Effective Means For State Executive Branch

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one of a series of articles prepared by the Farmington Enterprise to promote informed and active participation in the election of a new Michigan constitution...

Michigan's proposed new constitution gives the governor power which he needs to carry out the responsibilities of his office, while it also strengthens the legislative and judicial branches of government.

In the executive branch, the term of the governor and of other elected officials are increased to four years. This will make it possible for them to carry out their long-range programs. It also means that they will have to spend only every fourth year in campaigning...

THE GOVERNOR will continue to be nominated in a state-wide primary election. The lieutenant governor will be nominated in party-convention. They will run together as a team on the ballot and one vote will count for both candidates.

A more important role is indicated for the lieutenant governor in the new constitution. As under the present constitution, he will preside over the senate; the new constitution permits him to vote to break a tie. The governor may request him to carry out certain duties although no power vested in the governor may be delegated.

The secretary of state and the attorney general will be elected in the party convention and election. The state treasurer, as head of one of the principal departments, will be appointed by the governor. (The auditor general and state superintendent of public instruction will be discussed in subsequent articles.)

The state highway commissioner will be appointed by a new state highway commission of four members, no more than two of the same political party, appointed by the governor for overlapping four-year terms. This commission is set up in the same way as are the civil service commission and the employment security commission.

THE PRESENT constitution says nothing about the highway commissioner but a law provides for his election. Michigan is now the only state to elect this official. The purpose of the change to appointment is to make the highway commissioner a professional position rather than a political one to free him from the time-consuming task of running for office and to make possible the selection of

Evergreen Tree Is Still Tops At Christmas

Nowadays Christmas trees are made out of almost everything, from aluminum to plastic—but the world's favorite Christmas tree is still the evergreen.

Many legends explain how the evergreen became associated with Christianity and Christmas. One is the story of St. Wilfrid, according to 'The Book of Knowledge.'

SPEAKING TO a group of converts, the saint sought to illustrate how they had broken away from the heathen worship of the Druids.

He chopped down a giant tree—an oak, since this kind of tree was one of the chief objects of Druid worship. As it fell with a crash, it split into four pieces. From the center a young fir tree sprouted.

St. Wilfrid told the converts that the fir should then be used to serve as their "holly tree."

"IT IS THE SIGN of an endless life," he said, "for all its leaves are evergreen, and it points toward heaven."

"It is the wood of peace, for all your houses are built of the fir. Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child, gathered about it, get in the wildwood, but in your homes!"

Mistletoe Berries Numbered Kisses Mistletoe figures in many legends from pre-Christian times. Druid tree-worshippers believed it had magical powers of healing. Romans thought that a man who went beneath the mistletoe must kiss and declare a day's truce.

Today, kissing beneath the mistletoe remains a happy holiday custom. Correct procedure is that a berry must be removed for every kiss taken and when all the berries are gone, there are no more kisses available.

Twp. MD Drive Hits Near \$800

The Muscular Dystrophy campaign fund volunteers announced this week a total of \$788.61 was collected from residents in Farmington Township. The 1952 drive began December 4 and was highlighted in this area by a porch light night campaign.

The money raised during the Muscular Dystrophy drive will provide funds to carry on the fight to find a cure for the crippling disease.

Package Sorting Led to Yule Seals

Inspiration for the first Christmas seals came to Einar Holboell, a Danish postal clerk, as he was sorting packages one Christmas season. He envisioned all the packages bearing a special stamp, with the proceeds spent to aid people who suffered from tuberculosis.

The king and many of Denmark's leading citizens endorsed the idea, in 1904. Later, the plan spread to Norway and Sweden, and in 1907 was adopted in the U.S. More than 50 countries now use the seal.

Next article: Executive Branch, continued.

Sailing Ships Inspired Lore

Ships arrive on Christmas morning, carrying Jesus, Mary and Joseph, says the English carol, "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing." This is one of many legends developed by seafaring peoples to connect Christmas and ships.

Stories of the first St. Nicholas were carried from Asia Minor to Northern Europe by sailors, and children in Holland long believed that St. Nicholas arrived by ship from Spain. In Greece, St. Basilio comes on January 1 to deliver gifts, and he too is transported by ship.

Vets, learn of GI Benefits

Have Your Prescriptions Filled at Bradley Rexall Drug 23366 Farmington Rd. GR. 4-3123 25 Yrs. in Farmington

They Were Plum Out

Legend says plum pudding began when an English king and his men were lost in a forest on Christmas Eve. The cook used foods he had on hand, including part of a stag, plums, eggs, flour, to make a single dish all could share.

IN SCOTLAND

Christmas feast favorites in Scotland include shortbread, a rich cake or cookie, and haggis, a kind of pudding. New Year's Eve, or Hogmanay, is the principal day for gifts and greetings, when children go singing from house to house, in hopes of a treat. New Year's visits are paid—and it's customary for the visitor to bring along a pocketful of coal.

For A Colorful Christmas Buy RCA Victor COLOR T.V. From Your Authorized RCA Victor Color Servicing Dealer and Save GENE HYMES' FARMINGTON RADIO & TV Grand River at 9 Mile - Since 1945 - GR. 4-4040

A Dangerous Trend That You Must Correct

When citizens of a rapidly growing and changing community such as Farmington show a lack of interest in whether or not an old landmark gets torn down or a longtime owner of a business establishment here retires or leaves the community, it is at least partially understandable. But, it is awfully hard to understand how the citizenry of any community can show so little interest in the things which affect them very directly.

Yet, Farmington citizens seem to be showing less and less interest each year in community affairs and problems despite the fact that the outcomes will have very direct effects on them and their families personally. A good example of this was proved last week when nearly 85 percent of our adult citizenry failed to go to the polls to record their feelings on an important school operation.

The decision was left up to a little over 15 percent of those qualified to express views on this matter. The 85 percent who didn't care enough of who

couldn't spare the time to get to the polls to express their views where they really count are now going to have to live with the decision of the majority of the 15 percent who did, for the next ten years.

When decisions of this kind in any community are left up to a small percentage of the populous, it opens the door for some very serious consequences. Many communities have experienced disastrous effects because of this by having their towns taken over by minority groups with motives of pure greed rather than community good. They have also found themselves in very serious trouble in retaining even the minimum kinds of service and facilities that every community should have.

We can only hope that a lot more citizens of Farmington will start to recognize the dangerous situations that can result when major community decisions are left to a minority to decide. There shouldn't be any local election as important as the special election just conducted that should attract less than 50 percent of the qualified voters.

Too Much Time for Campaigning

Secretary of State James M. Hare, Michigan's chief election officer, will be proposing a shorter span of time between primary elections and general elections when the Legislature gathers again next year. We wholeheartedly support him in this effort.

The last state election which was one of the liveliest in many years, provides a good example of what happens when the time between the date parties nominate their candidates in the primary and the general election takes place is extended over too long a span of time. For the first month or month and a half the candidates were saying something about what their policies and positions on matters were but after that time it was just a repetition of the same old statements and charges and counter-charges being made over and over again.

By election day in November we were ready to shout hallelujah and we are reasonably certain a lot of other voters were also. Campaigning just simply ran too long and the candidates ran out of

things to say.

Back in the days when news traveled slowly and a radio, television set and daily paper were not found in nearly every home as they are today, there may have been some basis for allowing extended periods of time for candidates to travel around delivering their campaign speeches. There is no such need today and if candidates really wanted to be heard by the community to reach everyone with what they had to say.

It has often been said that only the rich or those who have some strong and financially well established organization behind them, can afford to be a politician today and there appears to be some grounds in this statement. Extended periods in which campaigning must be done gives the politician with the most money behind him a good advantage.

A month and a half or two between primaries and general elections should be plenty of time.

Let's Not Forget Why We Celebrate

Christmas is now just a few days away and we hope that all of you have the bulk of your Christmas shopping done and are now slowing down the pace a bit so that you can truly enjoy this glorious holiday with your family and friends.

Since the early part of November now the emphasis has been on what to buy for this one and that one and arranging shopping trips, getting Christmas cards lists prepared and cards selected, and ready for mailing, springing up the house and beginning to decorate it and in making plans on menus and for guests who'll be coming or where you'll be going.

No matter how much you already have done, there will always be the last minute jobs to take care of but we sincerely hope that within the last few days prior to Christmas and on the day

itself everyone will find some time to give serious thought to the real purpose of this holiday.

December 25 is Christ's birthday and should be observed as such. Let's reflect back often during the next few days on what we are really celebrating. Gift giving and receiving and joyful gatherings with the partaking of good food and beverages can all be a part of this celebration without leaving out some periods of time for consideration of the only reason we really have this holiday in the first place.

Don't leave Christ off your gift list. The gift He wants from you is a dedicated effort to practice a more wholehearted way of living with greater emphasis on spiritual things during the coming year.

Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago DECEMBER 18, 1937 \$1000 for Goodfellows Once again a splendid reception was given to the Annual Goodfellows Paper Sale. A total of \$999 was collected from the sale of papers on street corners last Saturday and combined with the individual contributions of businessmen and organizations the aggregate amount came to approximately \$1000.

10 Years Ago DECEMBER 18, 1952 The Farmington City Council voted 3 to 1, at its regular Monday evening, to turn down adoption of a new ordinance weighting limits on residential streets. Councilman Tracy Conroy and James Noury joined Mayor Ken Loomis in defeating the measure proposed by Councilman James Cavanaugh.

Falcons Win Two The Farmington High School basketball team chalked up its first wins of the season last week with twin victories over Northville and East Detroit. Opening the season on the road last Tuesday at Wayne High School where they were defeated, the Falcons staged two home court victories. Northville bowed 53-32 on Friday and East Detroit was humbled 34-29 on Tuesday.

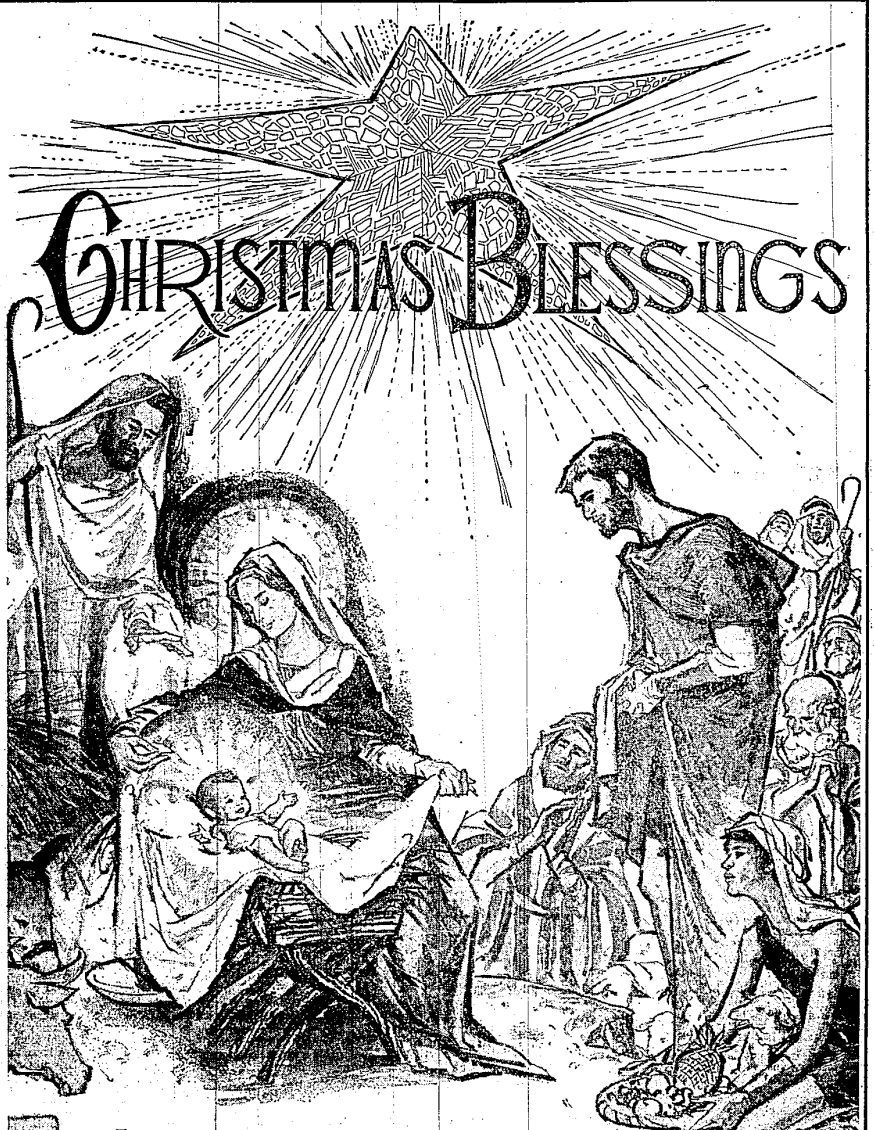
5 Years Ago DECEMBER 19, 1957 Dedicate Expressway A ribbon-cutting ceremony shortly before noon last Friday officially opened the new 2 1/2-mile-long Farmington-Brighton Expressway to traffic. Local officials attending the dedication were Oakland County Board Chairman of the Board Senator Delos Hamlin, Mayor Pro-Tem V. O. Bates, and City Manager Earl Scherffius.

Veritable Wonderland Farmington folks awoke Tuesday morning to discover a blanket of snow-covered trees, shrubs, roof-tops and ground creating a veritable winter wonderland. The landscape was converted over night by the clattering white snow. Fathers may have uttered a few expletives if they were among any of the motorists who had difficulty getting to work through the snow.

To Widen Road Tentative plans are being drawn by the Oakland County Road Commission to widen Grand River and 44 Mile Road. Present plans call for the inclusion of the project in the 1953 Road Commission Budget.

Business License A general business ordinance calling for all persons carrying on a trade, business or profession within the City to register and be licensed by the City will go into effect the first of the year.

Stage Game Upset The Farmington High School basketball team found itself in a three-way tie for first place in the Inter-Lakes Conference last Friday evening following their upset victory over Waterford High School. It was the first win in three starts this season for the Falcons.



The miracle of Christmas, holy source of hope and joy, once more spreads its wonders, its radiant promise across the land... and the Star shines, as on that hallowed night, with eternal light. The blessings that rise from the sacred manger are manifold and everlasting. Our wish is that you and yours may be blest with the divine comfort and inspiration of Christmas, now and always.

Himmelspach Dining Room, Inc. Farmington Dairy, Inc.