The Farmington Enterprise

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In Our Opinion . . . .

School Plan That Needs Voters Okay

It came as a real surprise to us last Monday night when two very different rough sketches of plans for the 24 classroom addition to be made at North Farmington High were submitted to the board of education by the architect for consideration.

One of the plans was for the normal type of classroom addition but the second was a plan specifying a very much different type of construction in one portion of the addition. The second plan called for one section of five or six classrooms in the addition to be so constructed that the whole section could be rapidly opened up and converted into an auditorium seating approximately 500. It would be complete with a stage and all the other appurtenances which are called for in an auditorium.

The possibility of a combination classroom-auditorium section in the addition was not something which the architect dreamed up but something which the board of education members themselves asked the architect to work up a rough plan on.

The architect estimated that it would cost between $80,000 and $100,000 more to provide the addition with the combination classroom-auditorium section in it than it would to construct the basic 24-classroom addition.

At this time we do not wish to discuss the need or desirability of having an auditorium in the Farmington community. Perhaps there is a definite need and desire for such a facility but we can't help but feel that board of education members are stepping completely out of bounds in even considering such a facility as part of the addition to be made at North Farmington High at this time.

When information was given to voters prior to the $5 million school bond issue election which was balloted on in November of 1963, there was no mention made of a combination classroom-auditorium even being considered with moneys from the bond issue. It was indicated that an estimated $1,260,000 would be spent to meet costs for the construction, equipping and paying of architectural fees for 24 additional classrooms at East Junior High and an equal number at North Farmington High.

To provide an auditorium that can have the multiple function of being used for classrooms during much of the time is without a doubt a very economical approach to follow. But, even to provide an "extra" of this kind in a very economical way is totally wrong unless it is clearly spelled out to the taxpayers who are going to pay the bill that this is how their money is going to be spent.

Perhaps a majority of the voters would be in total agreement that this would be a good expenditure but they should have the right to say so on the ballot. The estimated $80,000 to $100,000 additional cost for the auditorium-classroom combination school section would provide a substantial amount of additional regular classroom space.

We feel voters would have every right in the world to object vigorously if members of the board of education decide to go ahead with the plan for the combination classroom-auditorium section in the North Farmington High addition.

It has been indicated that a decision will be forthcoming at the next regular school board meeting on March 9.

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Some Won't Take the Time to Know

An incident which occurred at the Township Hall last week when we happened to be there seeking some information distubed us very much.

A lady came in to pay her tax bill and expressed shock and almost disbelief when she was told by Treasurer Elise Avery that a four percent penalty was being added. It was pointed out to her on her own tax bill where the January 20 deadline for paying without penalty was shown.

From the size of the penalty payment figure which was quoted that we overheard, we figure that her tax bill must have been over $350. Yet, with a bill as big as this, apparently neither she or her husband took the time to read the payment deadline instructions clearly enough to understand them.

Of course there was another very big reason why her lack of knowledge about the deadline date for paying taxes without the penalty being added upset us. At least three or four times between the time that tax bills were mailed and January 20 we ran front page stories pertaining to this current winter tax billing. In each of the stories we spelled out the deadline date for paying without penalty and the March 1 date when the delinquent bills would be turned over to the county treasurer's office and have to be paid there with still additional penalty being added.

It is rather disheartening to us when we bend over backwards to make sure everyone in the community is informed on important details of this kind and then find they can't find the time or don't seem to care enough to read the information we provide them.

When we hear people lament that they were not informed about this or that action taken by any local governing board or about a project that was going to be started in the community, we can't help but become disturbed when we know we had given the matter very ample publicity earlier.

Like Mrs. Avery stated, some people offer some very poor excuses for their failure to know.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago
MARCH 5, 1959

Store Burns

A $200,000 fire ravaged the National Food Store in the Bel-Aire Shopping Center Saturday. It was one of the most spectacular fires in the history of the community and attracted a crowd of about 2,000 on-lookers. Eight fire engines assisted in bringing the blaze under control two hours after the first alarm had gone in and neighboring fire departments had responded to the scene.

New Expressway

Federal approval of the proposed 11½ Mile expressway route through Farmington township has been obtained this week by the State Highway Department. Construction is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 1960.

Nearly Drown

Three young Farmington township girls on there way to the Gill Road Elementary School early Monday morning broke through thin ice in a flooded area of a field across from the school. Their cries for help were fortunately heard by Clifford Thorton who raced to their rescue. Township police investigating the scene afterwards reported the water was five feet deep at the point where the girls broke through

10 Years Ago
MARCH 4, 1954

Special Election

A special school election has been set for March 29 by the Farmington School Board to decide whether a, $1,500,000 building program can be put into effect.

License Plates

A line nearly two blocks long formed last Saturday in front of the local Secretary of State's office in Farmington as motorists rushed to get their 1954 license plates before the February 28 deadline.

Legion Birthday

The Groves-Walker Post 346 of the American Legion will celebrate its 36th birthday at a dinner set for March 6 in the Farmington Legion Hall.

New High School

An open house and dedication service is being planned for the new Farmington Senior High School for Sunday, March 21.

FHS Wins Crown

The Farmington Senior High School basketball team sewed up the Inter-Lakes Conference Championship last Friday by defeating Van Dyke, 57-47. Big John McCaffrey led the Falcon scoring attack.

1689—St. Joseph Mission was founded at Niles.

15 Years Ago
MARCH 3, 1949

Host Tourney

Farmington High School will host the District basketball tournament this week. The Falcons are scheduled to meet Bentley High School in the first round of the Class B playoffs at 8:30 p.m. tonight.

Teachers' Club

The Farmington Township Teachers' Club elected its new officers and committee chairmen this past week. Chosen were Teresa Tulencik, president; Kathleen McCarthy, vice president; Jessie Alexander, secretary; and Donna Plumpton, treasurer. Eldora McCaskill, Patricia Dwelle, Mildred Willoughby and Dennis McCarthy were elected committee chairmen.

Falcons Win

The Farmington High School basketball team closed out its regular season by posting a 38-30 victory over Northville. The Falcons recorded 14 wins against only one loss during their 1948-49 cage schedule. The starting line-up for Farmington was Keith Welland, center; Junior Nichols and Dick Tupper, forwards; and Bud Bryant and Fred McLean, guards.

1900 — Federal census was 2,420,982.

High Schools Plan March 25 Vocation Night

Vocational Night, scheduled for March 25, will interest a great variety of students since a large number of vocations will be represented. There are approximately 50 representatives from trade schools, colleges, companies, hospitals, industries, and the armed forces that are planning to attend Vocational Night for the benefit of aspiring students.

Information on over 100 prospective job and trade opportunities will be at the students' disposal. Medical assistance and technology, industrial engineering, and automation will be widely represented. Students will find every possible vocation represented from park rangers to painting and sculpting.

Farmington is working with North Farmington and Walled Lake to provide a successful Vocational Night. Miss Carley, who is in charge at Farmington, is being accompanied by several students in advertising at FHS. The student advertisers are Cheryl Borchardt, Sue Sherlock, Larry Adcock, David Stidwell, Ron Stevenson, Toni Norton, Sue Brown, Pat Trout, and David Long.

Students who will serve as hosts and hostesses are: Linda Allen, Barbara Berling, Candie Brooks, Lynn Cox, Barry Hobbs, James Montgomery, Carol Mowitz, Ronald Polcyn, Agnes Pollard, Linda Ports, Tom Ryan, Gilbert Shaw, and Paula Weaver.

Plan Carnival At FHS Apr. 25

The jointly promoted Farmington Senior High-North Farmington Senior High carnival will be presented Saturday, April 25, at the FHS gym and cafeteria. Last year the carnival was presented at North Farmington.

Farmington Senior High's co-sponsors for the event will be the Exchange Club and CHU. The over-all chairmen for the carnival plans are sophomore Connie Aldridge, senior Carol Lawshe and a representative from North Farmington yet to be named.

The North Farmington sponsors of the carnival are its Student Council and Exchange Club.

In the near future many committees will be formed by the various clubs that are desirous of having a booth at the carnival, in order to decide what kind of booth they want to operate.

As last year, the carnival will probably consist of many games, run by the different clubs, in which winners will receive many prizes, such as over-stuffed dolls.

Last year, in the numerous games played, over $900 worth of prizes were given away.

In addition to games, many clubs will likely operate different types of novelty concession stands at which customers will be able to buy all sorts of fun things.

The purpose of the carnival, Mr. Barrons unashamedly admits, is to raise money for the Exchange program and other worthy organizations.

FHS Students Win Art Awards

Nine F.H.S. students have gained recognition in the annual Southeastern Art Awards Exhibition from the 4,982 works submitted. They are seniors Dave Matson, Gary Shortt, John Szabo, Charmaine Bishop, Virginia Duncanson, and Richard Meehan and juniors Nancy Davis, Ron Stevenson, and Jim Gareau.

The awards were in three classifications: Blue Ribbon winners were Nancy Davis for transparent water color and Dave Matson, Gary Shortt, and John Szabo for jewelry. A sculpture won a Gold Key for Gary Shortt. Certificates were given to Ron Stevenson for transparent water colors and mixed media; Gary Shortt for other prints; and to Charmaine Bishop, Nancy Davis, Virginia Duncanson, Jim Gareau, Richard Meehan, Ron Stevenson, and John Szabo for jewelry.

The 1,000 winning pieces went on view on Saturday, February 22, at Crowley's auditorium and will continue to be there through this weekend. On March 3, the Art Club and Mr. Glenn's art classes went to Crowley's and observed the display.

Of Farmington's 39 entries, 15 students placed as winners. Mr. Ray Glenn, head of the Art Department, stated, "We did much better than I'd expected; perhaps the judges were much more conservative."

The Southeastern Michigan Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition is sponsored by Crowley's and the Detroit News.

RUSSELL A. GILBERT (left), president of Town and Country Dodge, Inc., 32411 Grand River in Farmington, one of the auto dealers who helped originate the popular "Dodge Boys" advertising campaign that has become a national series, was honored recently with a silver Bravo Medal. The Bravo Award for the best overall advertising campaign of 1963 (newspapers, radio and TV) was presented by the Detroit Copy Club and the Art Directors Club of Detroit. Gilbert and four officers of the Tri-County Dodge Advertising Association, received medals for the dealer group's unusual campaign. Gilbert, secretary of the association, is pictured with Earl E. Orr of Ferndale, president of the dealer advertisers.

Urge Eye Safety Alert During Spring Clean-Up

Foresight can save sight if there's a "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign planned for your home this spring, counsels the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in a "Save Your Vision" message this week.

The eye safety alert was prompted by reports of injuries during cleaning and gardening chores last year, said John W. Ferree, M.D., executive director of the sight conservation agency. March 1-7 has been proclaimed national "Save Your Vision Week" by President Johnson.

TRASH FIRES were the cause of particularly serious accidents, such as the Midwestern man hurt when an aerosol bomb discarded in a trash fire exploded in his face, or the Pennsylvania woman seriously cut around the right eye when a glass bottle blewup in the incinerator behind her home.

Discarding old bottles or cans in the rubbish fire can mean tragedy if the heat explodes them and sprays blinding fragments of glass or metal for yards around, the National Society warns. The danger is multiplied if the container still holds some combustible powder or liquid. Disposing of old flashlight or portable radio batteries in the trash fire is also risky; they explode with immense force when subjected to heat.

Eye protection such as safety glasses or plastic cover goggles are a must for painting and planting work, Dr. Ferree declared, citing the case of the housewife-decorator who got two eyes full of paint when a spray can nozzle gave way as she was using it. Eye injuries among gardeners cutting branches or shrubs are numerous in the Society's files, he said.

"WHEN CHILDREN are around spring clean-up activities, you can't be careful enough," noted the NSPB director. Tools and materials should never be left unguarded for a moment. A four-year-old Northwestern tot picked up a dandelion digger his mother had laid down and poked himself in the left eye, seriously threatening his sight. Down South, a six-year-old accidentally hit his younger brother in the eye with a grass sickle taken from a tool box without his father's knowledge. A two-year-old child was treated at an Ohio hospital after she got garden lime in her eye.

Eye safety is a major program of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc. Founded in 1908, it is the only national voluntary health agency devoted exclusively to sight conservation through research, education and preventive services. Working nationally and through state divisions, the NSPB has headquarters at 16 East 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

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Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The Editor for publication must 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.

Against Stick-on Tabs

Mr. Joseph Corcoran
Managing Director
Office of Secretary of State
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

I was astounded to read in The Detroit News, of February 27, that your office contemplates using "plastic stick-on" tabs for the 1965 license plates.

Can you imagine the problems that will beset the motorist when he is confronted with these?

Vandals, or even just inquisitive children, alternate hot and cold weather, the many car wash racks will all do their best to detach the tabs from the plates. Add to this the difficulty of attempting to get an adhesive to adhere to a very cold piece of metal, a dirty, rusty piece of metal, a greasy or wet piece of metal and troubles will compound.

The present tab system, as long as we are going to have to continue to use them, is about as good as can be found. I don't think that it's a major problem to remove and replace nuts and bolts only once a year regardless of the weather.

Please, Mr. Corcoran, don't saddle the motoring public with "plastic stick-on" tabs for license plates.

Sincerely,
Ralph A. Held

Descendant of First Settler Tells History of Landmark

(Editor's note: This is an account of the historical background of Farmington's Quaker Cemetery as compiled by a descendant of one of the community's earliest settlers, Robert G. Power. Mr. Power has done considerable research into the local history surrounding the Quaker Cemetery and has made use of family records and diaries in preparing the following chronicle.)

On July 3, 1832, Arthur Power and his third wife, Sarah Lawton Power, deeded a small plot of ground located in Farmington township in the then Territory of Michigan to the "Society of Friends," a Quaker group to which they belonged. The transaction was witnessed by Adeline B. Mead.

THE PROPERTY is described in the deed (which survives today in the family records of the author) as being 10x26 rods and containing approximately one acre of land. The site was dedicated for the purpose of serving not only as a burial ground but also for the establishment of a meeting house and other facilities for use by the religious sect. The deed was accepted and recorded three weeks after being drafted on July 21, 1832, at 2 p.m. by Squire Amos Mead.

Quite probably little attention was given by these early settlers of Farmington to the events of a year earlier when a Sac Indian Chief, Black Hawk, led his braves on a raid across the Mississippi. The Indian attack on a white settlement bordering the east side of that river was to have repercussions felt by the pioneers then inhabiting Farmington.

It was just 21 days prior to Chief Black Hawk's defeat that Arthur and Sarah Power deeded the plot of ground to the Quakers in Farmington. Little did they suspect that in five months time two of their grandchildren and their daughter-in-law, wife of their son, Nathan, would be the first to be buried in the new Quaker Cemetery.

A RELATIVELY short distance away, steaming up the Detroit River, was the Henry Clay, one of the river boats of the era, and aboard it were some 370 soldiers en route to the Black Hawk War.

Sickness had broken out aboard the ship and a number of the stricken soldiers had been placed ashore at Detroit. Soon over 100 residents of Detroit were to be dead of the dreaded Asiatic Cholera, including Father Gabriel Richard, the Catholic priest who had ministered to the stricken victims.

A resident of Farmington, a man by the name of Barnum, who lived on the Conroy Road, the present Ten Mile Road, had been visiting in Detroit at the time of the epidemic. He became ill and died from Cholera and panic seized the local population.

IT WAS NATHAN Power, son of Arthur Power, the first settler of Farmington, who buried the local Cholera victim. He and two other brave residents had gone to the Barnum residence, prepared the body and buried it in his own door yard.

A short time later, Nathan's wife, Selinda, was stricken with Cholera during the night and died at 7 a.m. the following morning. By 11 a.m. the same day, Phoebe Minerva, Nathan's five-year-old daughter, also succumbed to Cholera. They were buried the same day in a common grave, and ironically enough became the first persons buried in the cemetery dedicated by Phoebe's grandparents a month previously.

This account has been well circulated and is known to many students of Farmington's early history. But probably not well known is the fact that the next person to be buried in the Quaker Plot was also one of Nathan Power's children, 13-month-old George, who died four months after his mother and sister at 5 a.m. on the day before Christmas, 1832.

It is interesting to note how Nathan Power recorded the events of this monentous and tragic year in his personal diary. Each year on his birthday, Nathan Power reviewed the preceding 12 months and here are his reflections as put down on April 19, 1833:

"I stuck up beams in the mill yard with Thaddeus Martin the sixth day of this week. This day forever gone.

"Proclaims the end of time. And has gone with it a beloved wife and only daughter and my little son George who was the last gift of his mother so that they with Lorenzo make just half of my family that I have this year followed to the silent grave.

"This is a year to be remembered by me; a year never to be forgotten while in mutability it has been a dispensation of deep trial that none knows save those that are called to pass through. A path exempt from trial is what I have no right to expect and what I hope I am learning not to desire."

NATHAN POWER, gentle Quaker that he was, closed his diary entry with this prayerful hope for the coming year:

"A patient submition (sic) to every divine dispensation is what I wish for an increase of so that the mingled cup of life may prove a profitable draught and impress me."

Four years after dedicating the cemetery, Arthur Power died and was also buried in the Quaker Plot.

The name, Arthur, seems to have been quite common in the Power family and its repeated use has caused some confusion.

(Next week, the author, Robert G. Power, who is the great-great-great-grandson of Arthur Power, will trace back the history of his family, further establishing his claim that Farmington has the earliest Quaker landmark in Michigan.)

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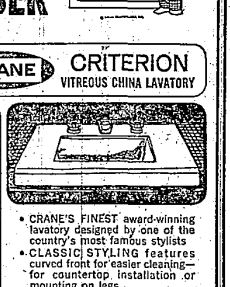

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