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The Observer

OF FARMINGTON

THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Townships of Canton, Plymouth, Redford, Salem, Nankin, Farmington

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The six Observer Newspapers are Michigan's largest weekly newspaper group. Complete up-to-the-minute news coverage of local, state and national interest. Subscription service available in Western Wayne County.

The strike against the Star Cutter Co., 34500 Grand River, Farmington Township, on since May 17, is over. The terms were obviously highly favorable to the workers and their bargaining agent, Local 383 of the UAW.

As an independent union prior to joining the UAW, the Star Cutter employees had been asking for less. But, concedes Earl Parlin, chairman of the Bargaining Committee for the strikers, they upped the ante when they joined the UAW because the Company was "forcing us out into the street."

Tentative agreement on a three-year contract was reached by 9 p.m., Friday, July 9, and was ratified unanimously by the workers on Monday afternoon, July 12. Employee benefits were spread all across the board. The pension plan was increased from \$2.50 per month to \$4.25. Previously, there had been a 30-year ceiling on pensions, but that has been removed. Now, a worker can leave the company after 10 years, and still be eligible at age 65 for a pension of \$4.25 per month multiplied by the number of years he has worked—in this case 10. Thus

the 10-year veteran will be entitled to \$42.50 per month for life from 65 on. And he will also get Blue Cross-Blue Shield protection for life. The wage increase will be seven cents per hour: the first year, eight cents the second year, and will drop back down to seven cents in the third year. The Company also agreed to change from the merit system of promotion to an automatic progression system—where the worker automatically received a five cent raise per month until he reaches the highest wage in his job category. "At the present

time," according to John Ellis, President of the Local, "under the merit system only 52 of the 175 Star Cutter workers have been able to reach the top pay rate their job permits. In the next 12 to 14 months, everyone will reach the top rate which will make the average wage increase 15 cents per hour."

Employee life insurance has been increased from \$3,000 to \$30,000 plus \$6,000 for accidental death and a dismemberment. Thus, if a worker dies a natural death, the Company will pay his widow \$30,000. If he is killed on the job his widow gets the \$30,000 plus an additional \$6,000.

Up to now, Star Cutter employees who were off because of illness were paid \$20 a week for 13 weeks. Now they will get \$50 a week for 26 weeks. There was an improvement in the vacation plan, so that now a 15-year veteran is eligible for a four-week vacation with pay. And it scales down from there. There are various other improvements in the vacation setup. For instance, vacations of between five and 10

years will receive an additional holiday with pay. The cost of living clause also increased for the workers. Where they have, up to now received a one cent raise for each .56 of a cent in the cost of living index they will now receive the one cent raise for each .54 of a cent raise. The contract has been extensively rewritten to provide additional protection and security for the men, particularly in the area of seniority rights. Up to now, seniority was only considered within a department. Now it is considered on a plant-

wide basis. Up to now, a worker could only exercise his seniority within a department. Now he can exercise it vis-a-vis any employee in the plant. The Star Cutter management has agreed to guarantee to work its employees not less than a five-day, 40-hour week for the next five years. Management has agreed to switch its injury insurance program from Aetna to Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Under Aetna, an injured worker got a day for 125 days. Under the new setup, the men will get whatever the cost of a

semi-private hospital facility for 365 days. According to John Ellis, the settlement "was a direct result of the militancy and solidarity of the men." In fact, there was some militancy. Last week, there was some tension outside the plant, while owner Norman Lawton was inside attempting to operate with a skeleton crew. But everything was sweetened and light on Farmington. As one of the men said, "If Norm already agreed to a new contract, he wouldn't be satisfied unless it was the best in the world."

Push for Five Lanes For Grand River Ave.

The Michigan State Highway Department has made 2 recommendations to improve traffic safety on Grand River, and the Farmington City Council expressed a desire, at its meeting of Tuesday, July 6, to set up a meeting next month, to see, about implementing it.

In a letter on April 16, the Highway Department turned down the City's request for a traffic light at Powers and Grand River, and recommended that the City prohibit parking on Grand River from Warner Street east to the City limits and mark Grand River for five lanes of traffic, the center lane for left turn movements only.

In a written statement to the City Council, Police Chief Maurice D. Foltz agreed that "these two recommendations would not doubt reduce the number of accidents on Grand River."

Grand River has also added greatly to the accident problem for various reasons. Foltz listed those reasons: "There is no parking on Grand River east of City limits for several miles. This area at and near the east City limits has caused many injury accidents from westbound vehicles striking parked vehicles. "Parked vehicles have contributed to other types of accidents in areas like Grand River and Mayfield as vision is somewhat obscured by parked vehicles for persons entering onto Grand River from the side streets."

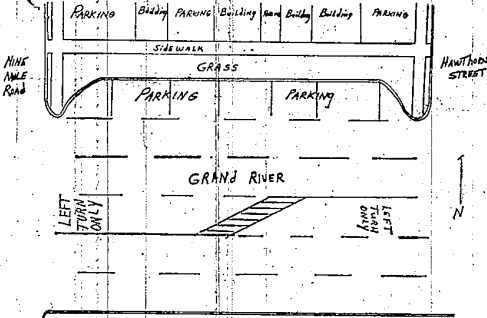
He then listed the recommendations: "Recommendation: 'To strip Grand River five lanes—center lane for left turns only' be done as soon as possible and to include their placing of overhead signs so indicating left turn lane."

"That areas where parking is needed on Grand River be provided as described in the attached photographs and that ample time be given for owners to comply with the request."

"That State Highway Dept. be advised that the above two recommendations are being completed and that this City again requests a part time traffic light at Grand River and Powers in order that persons be allowed to enter onto and cross Grand River with safety as it is believed that the surveys conducted by the State Highway Dept. have been in error and increased the danger to an area problem but only on the basis of a need at Powers Road."

In other action the Board has named the proposed elementary school "Fairview." The building, hopefully to be ready for classes in fall 1966, will be located on a site at the end of Rock Ridge road in the middle of an area bordered by 13 Mile, 14 Mile, Inkster and Middlebelt roads.

The new elementary school has been named after one of Farmington's first one-room school buildings. The old Fairview school stood on old Grand River between Drake and Halstead Roads. Presently the school district is using it.



A SKETCH of a typical block, in the City calls for a widening of Grand River to five lanes, from Warner to the east City limits. The sketch shows a street layout with parking areas, a center lane for left turns, and a five-lane road crossing the Grand River.

HERE IS PRIZE-WINNER Ingrid Nelson portraying Benjamin Franklin just after signing the Declaration of Independence, with null pen still dripping a drop of ink (one of mother's earrings painted black). The sign on the float she's hauling says: "Ben's Famous Pun"—After signing this, we must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately. To stress the difficulties of uniting the colonies and the awareness that the signing was more than a ticket on the glory train. Lying on the float is a wig which was left unused because Dr. Franklin did not follow the wig-wearing custom which was very common among leaders of his time. Our Founding Fathers were original thinkers and Ben Franklin about tipped them all.

wood I. Other highlights: Sousa marches, birthday ceremonies for the Yankee Doodle Dandies (those born on the Fourth of July), the Fourth of July Oration by the Hon. William J. Beer, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, prizes galore, square dancing, mixed baseball, fun races, helium-filled balloons, the exhibit on the Declaration of Independence and Franklin's part, teen dancing to the music of the Corsairs and

Residential Pl. Review of Churchill Estates, on the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Inkster Road. Nelson Dembs is creating the review by Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan and Planning Consultant Charles Le-

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Proposed Fall School Election To Decide on Fall School Needs

By JOY STINSON
A fall school election to decide on three financial needs was approved by the Farmington Board of Education at their regular Monday evening meeting.

On the ballot will be a \$5-100,000 bond issue for site and building needs and two operating millage questions. Renewal of the existing .30 mills for operation for the ten-year period 1967-76 will be put before the voters. This renewal millage will not affect the tax rate which is now at \$2.50 mills. The present .30 operation millage expires in 1966.

The Board also anticipates that 4.0 additional mill will be needed over a four year period for operation. This millage can be approved without changing the .30 mill tax rate by reducing by one mill each year for four consecutive years the amount of millage the school district allows to debt interest and retirement.

The one-mill secured each year from the millage now allotted to the debt would provide the additional four operational mills. A state law provides for this flexible action for growing school districts like Farmington if the approval of the voters is obtained.

Farmington has been paying 11.0 mills for debt and 21.50 for operation. Under the proposed plan, by 1969 Farmington would be raising 7.00 mill for debt and 25.50 for operation. The Michigan State Board Loan Fund requires that a school district levy 7 mills for debt

Interest and retirement to qualify to borrow at a low interest rate if the 7 mills should not prove enough to pay interest and principle on all outstanding bonds.

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Honoring Adams At Kendallwood

The contribution to American independence of (1) S. M. Adams, or (2) the Committee of Correspondence, or (3) the events at Boston will be the special theme for next year's Old Fashioned Fourth in Kendallwood. It was announced on Friday, Long-term planners have been in evidence, and the timing of the announcement was to enable them to give some thought to their parade entry in 1966.

This year the special theme was Ben Franklin's contribution to American independence. Ingrid Nelson (pictured above) was starring in the parade, which led off the July 4, 1965 holiday, festivities for an Old Fashioned Fourth in Kendallwood.

Franklin, who has been known as the Father of American Independence, was world famous for his original contributions to the practical arts, literature and science. He used his reputation and his great popularity in France to gain foreign aid for the American Revolution.

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What's Inside

The Farmington Observer
Amusements — 8-9A
A&P Food News — 12A
Business Directory — 6B
Church Directory — 10A
Classifieds — 6-13B
Editorial — 12A
Food Fair Food News 4A
Home Improvement — 4-5B
Kroger Food News — 14B
Sports Pages — 2-3B
Women's Pages — 5-7A

City Goes Marathon

The City of Farmington has awarded its gasoline requirement to the Marathon Oil Co., and the basis of competitive bidding against Gulf, Consumers Petroleum, and Mobil Oil.

Marathon's bid of \$1.099 is approximately 16 cents per gallon lower than the City is presently paying Standard Oil Co. With the estimated usage of 25,000 gallons, there is savings of more than \$250 in a year's gasoline requirements.

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To Choose Beauty Queen

A part of The Farmington Founders' Days Festival will be a beauty contest for single young ladies from 17 to 22. All entries must be residents of Farmington. The contest will be judged on personality, poise and appearance. The attire will be sports apparel and party dresses. The Queen will be crowned "Miss Founders' Festival" and there will be a motorcade from Botsford Inn to Farmington City Hall where the Queen, with her court, will be crowned. For more details see Page 5A.

BEAUTY CONTEST ENTRY
Name _____
Address _____
Phone number _____ Age _____
Enclose recent photograph.
Send entry to P.O. Box 15, Farmington, Michigan.

The Jaycees and the Missing Boy

Everyone knows the story of Robert James "Bum" Burns by now. About the little three-year-old boy named Bobby who spent a day and night in the dark woods of northern Michigan, while a small army of National Guardsmen, police, and volunteers, planes and choppers, and trained dogs combed the woods for him.

Part of that army was made up of Farmington men of course because Bobby is a Farmington boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Burns, Jr., of 2208 Glenarden, in the Township. Art Burns and his son were up north on a camping trip with other members of the Farmington Jaycees and their sons.

All of the group had set up camp in a small clearing on the Au Sable River, surrounded on three sides by a thick forest of ferns and giant Jackpines. Originally there were about 30 tents, and about 50 boys. But now it was Sunday morning, and they were breaking camp, getting ready to drive back to Farmington. About four of them, however, were making one last trip up the Au Sable. In canoes, and would not go back until dark.

At about 10:30 a.m., Art apparently took his eyes off Bobby briefly, and when he turned back to him the boy was gone. At first it didn't seem like much, but after about 15 minutes, it became obvious that the situation was serious.

All the necessary steps were taken. The proper authorities were notified. The State Police came. They knew the terrain. And there was the National Guard with its considerable manpower.

The young Farmington men all wanted to stay and help. But not all of them could. There were many youngsters who had to be taken home.

So about five Jaycees loaded the boys into state canoes, and came back to civilization. Three of the oldest of the boys, David Parlin and Bobby and Brian Chesley stayed on with the search party.

The searchers walked up and down the paths and roads. They remained calm—perhaps because their friend Art appeared calm. They assured him that everything was going to be all right. And sometimes, he assured them of the same thing. But not unlikely, a sense of hopelessness was creeping in. And probably they were feeling inadequate with the big, big trees looking down on them.

Ralph Parlin remembers a sense of frustration at not being able to get everywhere in the darkness, walking with flashlights and pullman lanterns. One of them was Art Burns.

Four or five of the Jaycees remained up and on patrol in the darkness, walking with flashlights and pullman lanterns. One of them was Art Burns.

The group became all spread out. They were all so busy and