

# JUST CHATTIN'

By W. W. EDGAR

## Time to Ask About "Surprise" Gift From Livonia Board

The colored paper and the tinsel have been tossed aside. The sound of the jingle bells is only a faint echo. Tired old Santa Claus is back at the North Pole and it is time to take a better look at the presents we found under the tree on Christmas morning.

This second look is most important. Because it is then that you start to ask yourself some questions. And with much of the emotion of the happy morning gone you begin to wonder.

You wonder why Aunt Alice ever by you such a gift. You wonder which one you can exchange. As you cast your eyes over the packages you wonder again which was the biggest surprise.

And for surprises you'd have a most difficult time beating the surprise—just the surprise—surprise—the folks in the Livonia and North Nankin Township received for Christmas.

It didn't come in any fancy paper with bright colored ribbons and bows. In fact it wasn't wrapped at all. It was just a blunt announcement by the Board of Education that a nine mill raise in taxes and \$9 million was needed. . . . The Board was so nice about it, too. The announcement stated you would have the opportunity to vote on the request on January 17, 1966, but added that these same needs were to keep things at the present level—and build a new high school.

What a gift to get for Christmas!

Reminded me of the time, years ago, when as a kid I came hustling down the stairs on Christmas morning to see what Santa had left me and found my stockings had been filled, for the most part, with chunks of anthracite coal.

In the tradition of the Pennsylvania Dutch country this was a sort of punishment for poor behavior. You can imagine there was little enjoyment for me on that distant Christmas Day.

In no way can the request of the Board of Education be construed as punishment, but it didn't add much cheer to the holiday season to learn that your taxes possibly would be raised "only about \$70 a year."

So, its about time we cast aside the holiday spirit for a bit and started asking a few questions.

Is our school tax money well spent?

Are we getting the most for our dollar?

Could the total amount be reduced without lowering the educational standards?

Why can rooms be built in churches at a much lower figure than those of comparable size in our schools?

How does our cost per student compare with the cost per student in other communities in the area?

Why must we have a different architect on each new school and pay huge architects fees when we already have the plans of all the previously built schools in the area.

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GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL will present a musical entitled "Where's Charley?" on Jan. 28 and 29 at 8 p.m. in Cambridge Jr. High. Featured in the production are (from left), Dave Fogleman, Diane Munch, Roger Mace, Marjorie Bridge, Matthew Black and Randy Galluzzi. The cast will also present a 4:30 p.m. matinee at Cambridge on Jan. 27 under the direction of Glen Ellis.

## Regional Center For Retarded Children Proposed In Wayne

A regional center for retarded children is expected to be built in the City of Wayne by September.

The center, sponsored by the Wayne County Intermediate School District, would serve the local school districts of Wayne, Garden City, Nankin Mills, Inkster and Cherry Hill among others.

The Wayne Association for Retarded Children (WARC) directed by Mrs. Margaret Meier, will be responsible for children 18 months to five years and for students 15 years and above. Students 5 to 15 will be under the direct supervision of the Intermediate District.

The State will pay 75 per cent of the cost and the remaining 25 per cent will come direct from participating districts which will also be asked to transport their own children.

Although final approval must come from the Intermediate School Board, the Wayne Board of Education has directed its administration to "study in detail instructional, organizational and financial problems related to the establishment of a regional center for special education classes."

The staff of the proposed center will be employed by the Wayne County Community School District. Each teacher must be certified and must have at least a bachelor's degree. Teachers will receive the same benefits as staff members.

The school district will negotiate for property for the new center and also will be responsible to maintain and operate its facilities.

Other responsibilities of Wayne are: payroll, personnel records, contracts, purchases, and insurance.

Mrs. Meier has asked the Board for a commitment of support so the Wayne Association for Retarded Children could be formed.

Thompson issued four permits for multi-family residences for valuation of \$463,000, a drop from the eight in 1964 with a value of \$769,000.

A total of 29 garages were constructed with a value of \$34,280 compared to 38 for a total of \$20,900 in 1964.

Thompson reported 20 commercial permits with a value of \$267,028 against 18 and \$256,000.

Industrial permits dipped from 14 in 1964 to 12 in 1965 but one was for the new Wheel Truing plant and boosted the valuation to \$1,229,700 this year contrasted to \$56,000 a year ago.

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## Bus Fleet Insurance Costs Rise

Insurance for Livonia's school buses and vehicles will be provided next year by State Farm Mutual Insurance Company which recently submitted the lowest of five bids to the school board.

Its offer, made through the John E. Tripp Agency of Plymouth, was \$112,221—an increase of \$2,000 over the premium for this year.

Wolverine Insurance Co. which submitted the second lowest bid of \$113,133 is carrying the district's insurance this year.

Coverage for liability provides \$100,000 for each person injured and a maximum of \$1,000,000 for each accident.

In other business, the board approved final plans for additions to Emerson and Whitman Junior High Schools. Bids for Emerson will be opened Jan. 20 and on Feb. 3 for Whitman.

A Cave approval for election inspectors for the 41 precincts who will conduct the Jan. 17 election.

Agreed to apply for \$102,000 in federal tax funds to expand the "Livonia Program for Educationally Unaccommodated Children in Areas of Relative Economic Deprivation."

Decided to conduct a Nurses Aide and Orderly Training Program in conjunction with St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

## 'M' Graduate Buys Observer

(Continued from Page 1) retain Mrs. Chandler as editor, Power said "The tradition of excellent journalism and community service established by the Observer papers under the late Paul Chandler has been outstanding. That tradition will be continued and strengthened."

"As new publisher I have the greatest confidence not only in the present staff but also in the future growth of the chain and the dynamic communities which the papers serve."

Mrs. Chandler said, "It is with the utmost confidence that I turn the reins of publishing the Observer Newspaper Group over to Philip Power knowing that he will continue to serve the community with the same energy and dedicated journalism established by my late husband, Paul M. Chandler."

The papers were purchased by Paul M. Chandler and William C. McKay 11 years ago from the late Sterling Eaton. At that time there were The Livonia and Plymouth newspapers.

Subsequently Paul Chandler added the Bedford paper to his chain and changed the name to The Observer Newspapers. Just a short time before his death Publisher Chandler started The Farmington Observer.

He believed in total community circulation as the best means for keeping the public informed and formulating opinion based on close observation of daily happenings in school and government; and as the most efficient way to get the message of the merchant to the consumer.

Following his death on Dec. 12, 1964, his widow Myra Chandler was elected President of the newspaper chain. She added the Garden City and Nankin Newspapers and switched the Bedford paper to a controlled circulation newspaper also, thus solidifying the area.

"With the consummation of this sale," concluded Mrs. Chandler, "I look upon this as a first step toward The Observer Newspaper Group becoming a daily newspaper, a fond desire of both my late husband, and myself."

## Township Hall Closes at Noon This Friday

The Plymouth City Hall will be open as usual Friday until 4:30 p.m. but will be closed Saturday, Jan. 3, in accordance with the city's policy of giving workers an extra day off when the holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

The Plymouth Township Hall will close at noon Friday but will be open for business as usual Monday morning at 9 a.m. School bells will sound again for pupils in the Plymouth community public and parochial schools on Monday, ending a vacation that started on Dec. 22.

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18 gal. 7.79 30 gal. 18.79

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Today's Crossword Puzzle can be found in the Went Ad Section.