

In Our Opinion . . .

A Contract That Belongs to the Local Firm

The Enterprise was very much upset earlier this month by the action of the Farmington Board of Education in awarding the milk contract for schools in the district for the coming school year to the Sealtest Company instead of to the locally owned and operated Farmington Dairy.

At least three of the seven members of the Board—Richard Peters, George Nahstoll and Sylvia Swartz—must have felt as we do that contracts should go to local firms whenever possible, since they voted against giving the contract to Sealtest and for awarding it to the local dairy instead. The other four board members were not so inclined, however.

Had there been a wide variance in the bids submitted by the local dairy and the Detroit based Sealtest Company we would have been the first to agree that the contract should go to the low bidder. After all, it is taxpayers' money that is being spent for the purchase of materials and products used in the school system and the board of education or any other governing body has an obligation to get the best possible price they can.

The Sealtest Company bid for the milk contract was \$100,427.08 while the Farmington Dairy bid was \$100,623.21 or less than \$200 higher than the low Sealtest bid. When dealing with a contract involving as much money as this, and the difference is as close as it was, it is hard for us to understand any justification for not giving the business to the local firm. The board of education is not obligated by any law or regulations that say they must always award contracts to the low bidder and in this case we don't see how anyone could be critical of their favoring the local business firm.

A substantial portion of the local tax

money that the Farmington School District receives each year comes from the tax levy on personal property (machinery, equipment and inventory) of local commercial and industrial firms. The personal property taxes that the Farmington Dairy pays each year, with a substantial amount of very expensive milk processing equipment, we would guess runs very high. What the exact amount of personal property taxes as well as real property taxes on a business' farm of this kind would be we are not certain but we would venture to guess that it runs into the thousands of dollars category.

Taking the milk contract away from such a good local taxpayer firm as this because their bid was \$200 higher than the outside firm's just doesn't seem fair to us.

If the board of education or school administration does have some good reasons other than price alone for favoring the Sealtest Company over Farmington Dairy then The Enterprise feels they have an obligation to make these reasons known publicly.

We became even more upset over this matter this week when we learned that the Sealtest Co. was involved in a move to break prices paid to Michigan dairy farmers by importing milk all the way from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Milk Producers' Association termed it a scheme to "wreck negotiations (on) forthcoming contracts and break Michigan prices paid to Michigan dairy farmers by importing milk deliveries to the Sealtest Company starting July 21."

Our contention always has been that local governing bodies should deal locally first and feel strongly that this is the case where the board of education should have done just that.

Community-Wide Program Takes Effort

The success or lack of success of the first attempt in several years to hold a big community-wide Farmington event will not be able to be determined until after the final festivities of the Farmington Founders Days program are concluded this weekend.

Regardless of the outcome of what is hoped to be an annual community event by the directors of the Farmington Board of Commerce who are sponsoring this Founders Days program, however, a couple of things have been proven quite clearly to us.

One of these is that the various clubs and organizations of the Farmington community, or a good portion of them at least, can be united together to put on a community-wide program or project. Another is the fact that we do have in our rapidly growing community, populated with a lot of busy people, a goodly number who will work hard and long on projects and programs of the kind.

To mention the names of all the people who have put in countless hours of

time and effort to make this first Farmington Founders Days program a reality would be very difficult to do.

Even before the success or shortcomings of the festival are known, nonetheless, we would like to single out Bill Conroy, chairman of the Board of Commerce, for special praise. His enthusiasm and drive in working on the project inspired many others around him to do the same. Other members of the B. of C. board of directors who also deserve special praise include Bill Bowman, Ken Ekstrom, Mrs. Stella Sylje, Dr. Don Krohn and Barbara Byrne, administrator.

Numerous other names might also be added since the planning and programming for the three days of festivities have involved many.

It is our sincere hope that every citizen will at least take part in a portion of the festivities and show those who worked so hard to organize the project that their efforts were worthwhile.

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL.

Looking Back in the Files

5 YEARS AGO

JULY 28, 1960
Urban Renewal

An urban renewal plan for the so-called "blighted area" surrounding the downtown Farmington business district met with heated objections from residents in the fringe area at a four hour public hearing on the plan staged before the Farmington City Council.

Top North Hitter
Bill Oldershaw with a batting average of .485 earned the batting title in the North Farmington Baseball for Boys program. Oldershaw was a member of the Red Sox team which was edged by the Championship Orioles team in the league pennant race.

Need More Teachers
Marion VanAmeyde, assistant superintendent in charge of personnel for the Farmington School District, reported to the Board of Education Monday night that 19 teachers are still needed to fill the ranks of the 1960-61 teaching staff.

New High School
The proposed North Farmington combination junior-senior high school is expected to receive final approval from the Board of Education.

10 YEARS AGO

JULY 28, 1955
Babe Ruth Champs

The Arrowsmith Indians posted four consecutive victories to coast to the Babe Ruth League Championship with a 13-2 record. Utley, Benner, Andrews, Osterman and Stevenson of the Indians all finished among the top ten batters of the league while Utley and Andrews led the league in pitching with a total of 11 victories against just one loss.

Bel-Aire Shopping Center
Ten Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road, which was officially opened this week.

Twp. Road Committee
The newly appointed Farmington Township Road Committee has recommended to the Township Board that \$15,000 be allocated to the Oakland County Road Commission for use in maintenance of Township roads for the balance of the calendar year.

School Tax Rate

The tax rate for the Farmington Public Schools has been set at 25.24 mills per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

15 YEARS AGO

JULY 27, 1950
Summer Recreation

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) has made arrangements with other area recreation groups to make the annual excursion to Put-In-Bay August 2.

New Teachers

Four new teachers have been signed by the Farmington Public Schools system and two others hired for replacement of teachers leaving the system. Lee S. Peel has been hired to teach Journalism and English at Farmington High School. Another one of the new teachers is James A. Geiger, a math teacher.

All-Star Choice

Werner Maki has been named "Most Valuable Player" for the Farmington All-Stars who lost an exhibition game with the Detroit All-Stars, 17-0, last week. He is the 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Maki of 35325 Grand River Avenue in Farmington.

Ghost Town Near Holly Fun for Kids

A colorful and interesting attraction to be enjoyed this summer only a short distance from the Mt. Holly Ski Area Summer Ghost Town located near Holly, Michigan. It is a replica of a Western frontier town of a century ago. The town is a Wells Fargo office complete with old-fashioned safes which the youngsters can blow up, a jail in which they may play sheriff, a stockade, fort and blacksmith and barber shops to stimulate the imagination of all.

Baby lambs and goats are in the barnyard corral and few can resist getting some feed or milk from them. After a thrilling ride in an authentic stage coach (often "held-up" by local bandits) the family can ride the hay wagon to the winch and take them to the top of Lookout Ridge for a 20-mile view of the surrounding area.

When the young cowpokes get hungry they usually head for the Longhorn Saloon for a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and old-fashioned penny candy but family style chicken dinners are also served daily in the air-conditioned ski lodge.

The Ghost Town is located on the Dixie Highway (old U.S. 10) eight miles north of the Dixie exit of I-75, and will be open daily from 11:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. until Labor Day weekends only until the end of October.

Many YM and YWCA groups, scout, church and club groups have made reservations to visit the ghost town this summer and several have even planned overnight campouts at the area. Group swimming in man-made Snow Lake is also available by special arrangement.

Grant Variance for Two-Story Building

The City Zoning Board of Appeals approved a variance in the zoning ordinance at its meeting last Wednesday night, July 27, when it granted a two-story commercial building at 22770 Orchard Lake Road.

The two story building will have 560 square feet of space on each floor. It was pointed out that by utilizing bi-level construction Stevens would actually be allowing for more off-street parking than is required under the city's zoning ordinance.

The building will have 28 feet of frontage along Orchard Lake Road and extend 20 feet deep.

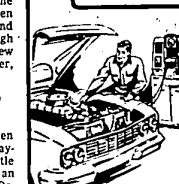
Hits Hole-in-One At Farmington CC

Fred Showell made a hole-in-one on the Farmington Country Club's 12th hole July 7. Showell used an eight-iron on the par three, 120-yard hole.

Showell was in a foursome of Charles Martin, who birdied the hole, and Nelson Henry and Lorne Olsen, who both parred the hole. All are members of the Farmington Country Club participating in the President's Trophy Tournament.

Debris burning is the No. 1 cause of forest fires in Michigan. Last year, it erupted into 362 fires, about one-quarter of the state's total to blacken 3,435 acres.

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REPORT from LANSING

State Representative

Raymond L. Baker

One of the most obvious shortcomings of the first six month session of the 73rd Legislature was its failure to adopt a meaningful and wide-ranging traffic safety program.

Efforts by the minority party to enact the Governor's 12 point program for the most part met with firm opposition from the majority party. All but four of the measures he recommended were either defeated on the floor or left needlessly bottled up in committee. What's more, the Democratic majority was only able to produce on two of the nine traffic safety items contained in their own 1964 platform.

SEN. ROBERT J. COLOMBO has attempted to excuse this poor record by pointing out that traffic deaths for the first five months of this year have decreased. While this is technically correct, we are still in the dilemma which has seen 700 people killed on our highways so far this year and with 600,000 people injured and property damage remain at a dangerously high level. We are still faced with the fact that traffic deaths in 1964 increased 13 per cent over 1963. And we still must realize that at our current rate more than 14,000 people will die on Michigan highways over the next five years alone.

It's clear from these statistics that something must be done to stem the tide of traffic deaths. Something must be done to back up enforcement officials with tighter regulations. Nevertheless, this important mandate has been left unfulfilled thus far by this legislature.

THIS IS NOT to say that nothing has been done. A definition of careless driving has been established to bridge the gap between speeding and reckless driving. Juveniles have been brought under the point system for traffic violations. Parents will now be able to cancel the licenses of their 16 and 17 year old offspring. A police officer will be able to issue a complaint at the scene of an accident even though he was not a witness. And persons never before licensed who are caught driving will face stiffer penalties.

Despite these achievements much of the meat of a good traffic safety program never

Maatala Visits Western U. Campus

Michael E. Maatala of Farmington is among most of the more than 4,000 freshmen students who will enter Western Michigan University this fall who will know something of campus activities and land marks when they arrive, thanks to the university's summer orientation program.

Maatala, an incoming freshman, visited the WMU campus recently to map out his future study programs, meet his counselors and learn his way around university buildings. He remained on campus for a day and half, to get many of the preliminary requirements out of the way.



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NOTICE FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP

ALL DELINQUENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS WILL BE RE-ASSESSED TO THE 1965 TAX ROLL ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1965.

Elise P. Avery,
Treasurer

July 28, Aug. 4

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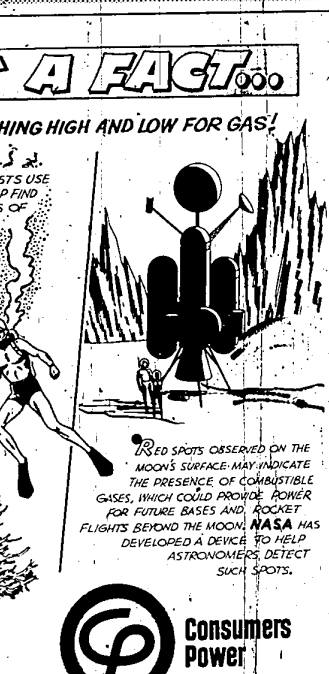
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