

Clark Sentence: 3 To 15 Years

today's hot line observerland

PLYMOUTH — Primary race for the judge's seat in the new district court became a battle of poster during the week with the city giving permission for their erection and the township issuing violations to have them taken down.

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth Kiwanis evening club will spearhead a drive to establish a fireproof historical museum by building a second story on the Community Building at an approximate cost of \$65,000.

PLYMOUTH — Township officials still involved in tangle over apartments, with the Planning Commission approving one site and rejecting two others.

REDFORD — Redford Township's Democratic Club Executive Board endorsed primary candidates despite announced "no endorsements" policy of the Wayne 19th Democratic Organization. Congressman Candidate Ron Mardiros, State Rep. Candidate John Bennett, County Board Candidate William C. Ford and Township Trustee Candidates Earl N. Patchett and Don Christie were boosted. Club President Joseph Patchett said the 19th District organization couldn't interfere.

REDFORD — Donald Eugene Brunmeier, 37, Inkster, became the fourth traffic fatality in the township Wednesday when his car apparently struck another driven by Livonian Wayne R. Templeton, 28, who was injured.

LIVONIA — Keeping pace with other districts, the City Council has voted a \$9,500 annual supplement to the \$18,000 state salary set for judges of the newly created District Courts. The present pay of Municipal Judge James McCann, who will retain one of the two new Livonia court seats, is \$17,000, including \$1,800 expenses. The second judge will be elected Nov. 5, after two of six candidates are nominated Aug. 6. The \$27,500 limit is in line with judges of higher courts.

LIVONIA — An estimated \$1,000 in window breakage at Cooper Elementary School is the latest act of vandalism in a series that has plagued Livonia school district the past year. School officials estimate glass breakage, alone, in Livonia's 44 schools amounts to \$30,000 annually. Cooper School, one of the district's oldest, will be used this fall to house 15 rooms of handicapped children.

What's Inside

A justice of the peace who isn't a lawyer — one last of a vanishing breed in Michigan government — doesn't think he ought to be eliminated and says the public will be hurt by the death of the JP system. Story and pictures on Page 1B.

Rockefeller and Nixon are evenly matched in Michigan as a whole, a poll shows, but suburban politicians note that Rocky would be far more help in helping to elect marginal GOP congressmen such as Esch and McDonald. Exclusive suburban-angle report on Page 7C.

Oakland County supervisors have voted for Sunday liquor, bringing that asset to restaurants and other establishments getting more than half their revenue from non-liquor sources. Page 8A.

Clarenceville's fancy-stepping high school band has once again captured top prize in the Traverse City Cherry Festival. Page 2B.

The "Stanislavsky Method" comes to suburbia in a school for actors. Page 6B.

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Don't Miss The Boat!

FARMINGTON FOUNDERS

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 July 25-27



By FRED DELANO

 Dr. Ronald Elwyn Clark began a three-to-15-year prison sentence Thursday for manslaughter in the sodium pentothal death of Mrs. Grace Neil, but not until he had turned his final court appearance into one reminiscent of his first 245 days before with a screaming emotional outburst.

Ordered handcuffed during a brief court recess before Judge William J. Beer passed sentence, the Farmington Township and ex-Redford physician fought to break the shackles.

"Oh, God," he screamed, leaping from his chair and slamming his wrists against the corner of the defense table. "These hurt like hell. Damn it!"

As the 58-year-old medic screamed, Ingham County sheriff's deputies and Farmington Township officers present in the Mason, Mich., courtroom instantly closed around Dr. Clark.

He then remained subdued as Judge Beer ordered him incarcerated.

HE WAS LED manacled from the courtroom at 4:08 p.m. Thursday, 50 minutes after Judge Beer had convened court, and was taken to the Ingham County jail to await transfer to the State

Prison at Jackson. Judge Beer has recommended that from there he be transferred to the prison at Marquette to serve out his sentence.

Judge Beer ordered that the eight weeks Dr. Clark has spent in custody since his arrest last Nov. 16 be credited against his sentence.

Taking that into account, and if he qualifies for time off for good behavior, the physician could be eligible for parole consideration in 22 months, according to an estimate by the Oakland County prosecutor's office. That would be in May, 1970.

Thursday's emotional outbreak was similar in pattern to his Nov. 16 arraignment in Farmington Township justice court when he fought with officers and then interrupted court procedure by screaming an accusation of "torture" at a township detective.

A JURY returned a guilty verdict against Dr. Clark June 28, finding him grossly negligent in the death of Mrs. Neil, a 43-year-old Livonia housewife who also served as his part-time office helper and who had been under his medical care for several years.

Mrs. Neil died in Dr. Clark's office at 30735



UP, UP AND AWAY! — Nineteen racing pigeons were set aloft Thursday from downtown Farmington to promote the Founders Festival this week. Named for area disc jockeys, the

birds raced from here to their home lofts in Taylor with CKLW's Bill Kennedy pigeon arriving first in 44 minutes flying time.

Race Kicks Off Festival

Farmington was "for the birds" at 12:30 p.m. Thursday when 19 racing pigeons were set aloft in front of the veterans' monument.

The pigeon race was held to promote the Farmington Founders Festival.

The feathered friends bore

tags with names of area disc jockeys, many of whom were there in person to set their birds in flight.

BEFORE THE START of the race there were a few cries of "fowl" because one of the pigeons was lighter by an egg,

laid during the night. Some thought the entry would have a weight advantage. WXY's Dick Putran received a special trophy for having the most prolific bird.

There was some question whether the birds would fly to their home roosts in Taylor.

The racers were trained to fly from south to north and it so happens that the way to Taylor from here is north to south.

BUT THE PIGEONS got their bearing and the bird tagged for CKLW's Bill Kennedy arrived in Taylor first at 1:14 p.m. WJR's Jimmy Launce was second and CKLW's Art Servi (Bozo the Clown) third.

Three of the pigeons didn't show in Taylor which brings to mind last year's pigeon race when one local family had a star pigeon boarder on its patio for a full month.

AFTER THE PIGEONS took off, the spectators assembled adjourned for lunch in the Salem United Church.

Needless to say the luncheon menu wasn't quab, but nesting everybody knows is nesting. They pay three per cent of

Township Holds Budget Hearing This Monday

Farmington Township residents will have the chance Monday night to express their approval or objections to the financial operations of their government when a public hearing is held on the township's proposed 1968-69 budget of \$1,119,900.

The hearing is scheduled for Township Hall at 8 p.m.

It is the first million-dollar budget in township history and compares with a 1967-68 outlay of \$969,088.

Biggest single departmental

boost is in the realm of police salaries which jump from \$256,126 to \$333,100.

When the proposed budget was first introduced April 8, Supervisor Curtis H. Hall defended the police pay hike with the statement:

"We are proposing some above-ordinary budget increases in our police department, necessitated by the need to remain competitive with salaries offered in neighboring police departments.

"We believe it would be false economy not to be competitive,

New Youth Center Opens At 9 Mile-Middlebelt Area

Youth, aged 13 to 18, living in the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area of Farmington now have a place to spend their free time thanks to the combined efforts of several official groups.

The idea for a Farmington Teen Center in that part of town came from the Farmington area YMCA, who got into the act when it received a \$1,000 donation for youth work from the Oakland County Neighborhood Community Services. This money was joined with \$900 given to the city by the

Oakland County Office of Economic Opportunity for a similar purpose and \$100 donated by the city.

All the money was turned over to the YMCA, which in turn hired Lynn Botwell as the director to get the project underway.

The center officially opened July 17. Last Friday there was a cookout at Kensington Park and on Monday there will be a competition in the various activities the center offers. These activities include bad-

minion, bumper pool, volleyball, basketball, dancing and table tennis.

For events away from the center, such as trips to Kensington for swimming, the center provides transportation and food.

Staffed by five young men and two young women, all from the neighborhood, and some college youth, all directed by Botwell, the schedule for the center is from 2 to 8 p.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

City Eyes Retirement Benefits

A liberalized retirement program which would increase benefits for municipal employees approximately 20 per cent has been proposed to the Farmington City Council. The measure is expected to be submitted to a vote of the residents on the November ballot.

As projected by the City Retirement Board and its consulting actuarial firm, approval of the plan at the polls would add \$14,334 to the average annual city budget.

The council, which received the written proposal this week, deferred formal action until July 29, but individual members indicated they will put the wheels in motion at that time to bring it to a November vote.

IN SUPPORTING the measure, City Manager John D. Dinan declared:

"Total cost of the proposal amounts to less than two and one-half per cent of our total budget.

"We believe that the council has the responsibility to its employees to provide adequate retirement benefits comparable to what is being provided in other Michigan municipalities.

"This type of benefit gives encouragement in the retention of career employees and offers incentive to experienced personnel to remain with the city as a career opportunity."

The city's 44 employees, 19 of whom are in the public safety department, have a payroll deduction plan which helps support the retirement fund.

They pay three per cent of

the first \$4,800 of their annual salary and five per cent of the salary excess above \$4,800 into that fund.

City contributions to the fund currently are 6.08 per cent on the first \$4,800 and 9.12 per cent on the excess. If the new proposal is adopted, city percentages will increase to 10.95 and 15.61 respectively. Employee payroll deductions will be unchanged.

AS OF LAST Dec. 31, only three ex-city employees were receiving benefits from the plan which first went into effect Jan. 1, 1962. Total amount of their annual allowances was \$2,304.44.

THE PLAN suggested by the retirement board contains five major revisions of policy:

1. At present, retirees are paid a basic pension equal to the number of years of credited service times one per cent on the first \$4,800 and one and one-half per cent above that. The new plan would increase those percentages to 1.2 and 1.7.

2. No change is proposed in the present voluntary retirement age of 60 for general employees, based on 10 or more years of credited service.

However, police and fire employees would be made exceptions to this policy and would be permitted to retire voluntarily at age 55 instead of 60, if they had 10 years of service.

3. Under the present plan, an employee with 25 or more years of service who terminates

Continued on Page 4A



CLEAN-UP—From the left, Karen Carter, Keith Barnett and Bob Walker were among the young people who spent time sprucing up an unused office building at Nine Mile and Middle Belt in Farmington which has been converted into Farmington Teen Center.

See Special Festival Section