

# Oppertthausers Answers

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Farmington Township Trustee Earl Oppertthausers took exception to the editorial last week. In the interest of fairness, we offered Oppertthausers the opportunity to reply.)

**"WHAT'S BEHIND NEW TOWNSHIP 'FRISK STEP'?"** your editorial asks. I will answer that in an equally bold and frank manner.

This is what is behind our new "Stop and Frisk" ordinance. Several months of both individual and collective consideration after the question was first raised at a public board meeting approximately a year ago.

A desire to act promptly after the United States Supreme Court decision to implement the newly defined right of our policemen to "stop and frisk" and to demonstrate our support for its recognition that "stop and frisk" actions are necessary for the effective protection of our law-abiding citizens.

The recognition of the need to advise our policemen, in clear and concise terms, what the lengthy Supreme Court decision said, so that they can readily understand what "stop and frisk" power they constitutionally have and what limitations are placed on that power.

The hope that evidence obtained in accordance with the procedures described by the ordinance will be constitutionally acceptable, will not be thrown out of court, but will assist in the conviction of criminals.

The collective experience of our Supervisor, Curt Hall's close relationship to our police department, and the practical experience of the Township Trustees when riding with our police officers in the performance of their duty.

A desire to "take the handcuffs" off our police so they can protect the rights of our law-abiding citizens by dealing more effectively with criminal elements which invade our midst.

A desire to become less concerned with the technical rights of individual law violators and more concerned about the rights of our law-abiding citizens.

A desire to protect innocent persons from any possible over-zealously-acting police officer by requiring (in Section 3 of the ordinance) that each "stop and frisk" action an officer takes be reported (where practicable) in writing to the chief of police—which reports will also serve as a tool to ferret out the habitually criminal-acting person.

A desire to warn all potential law violators that the people of Farmington Township disdain permissive attitudes toward persons who would threaten their property, their peace or their safety and will not tolerate criminal activity in any form.

A hope that we can reassure our citizens that their police department will be as effective a force in combating and preventing crime as the courts of our country will constitutionally permit.

ALTHOUGH you may not agree with our stand, I certainly respect your right to disagree.

I do find mutual agreement, however, in your statement that I "would be derelict in not participating in the actions and decisions necessary" while serving out my term "as an active" trustee until leaving that office.

I assure you that I will continue to do so—and to be perfectly frank and candid about it—if this results in people becoming more familiar with my beliefs, and my qualifications for the office of the District Court. I naturally am pleased.

I firmly believe that our citizenry are entitled to, and should, know where a candidate for judge stands—particularly in his attitudes toward strict, firm law enforcement, prompt and efficient court administration, and efforts to timely rehabilitate our wayward youth.

So, even though you may disagree about the specific need for such an ordinance in Farmington Township at this particular time, I and the other members of the Board feel that, regardless of how "many side-plans" we have, or the absence of "huge plans" in our community, there is a specific need now for "Stop and Frisk."

ALL of this is "What's Behind the New Township Frisk Step."

EARL C. OPPERTHAUSER  
Farmington Township Trustee

# Apathy Shows Up In Attendance Figures

FARMINGTON'S CITY COUNCIL reached the nadir of its box office history the night of Monday, July 15, 1968, when not one objective resident of this pleasant little community considered the deliberations of their government worthy of attendance.

If it were a Broadway show, City Hall would be "dark."

It's true, of course, that amateur theatricals have been taking a box office slide in this country ever since the boob tube became a necessity instead of a luxury.

However, while we do have critics among the great unwashed public who like to poke the finger of fun at their elected governmental bodies, and who use terms of reference such as "them clowns," the derision is ill-founded.

One fears they interpret too literally the line, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

The oft-mentioned apathy of this community in its government—except on those occasions when an individual has his own axe to grind—is appalling. Quick to criticize, city and township residents could care less about any decision which fails to touch their own lives.

ELEVEN PEOPLE were in the Council Chamber Monday, all because they had to be. They included four of the five elected councilmen, one

city manager, one city clerk, one city attorney, one police chief, one D.P.W. director, one delegate from the Jaycee Auxiliary who stayed until her pet project was considered, and one newspaper-type.

It would be easy, and sort of fun, to credit the poor "house" to the absence of Councilman Howard Thayer, who does have a tendency to put life into the script after a hard day in the shop. Realistically, however, that would not be fair to Thayer.

The real answer is that people just don't give a damn.

Oh, they'll scream like banshees over a special assessment, or a flooded basement, or a hole in the road, or a boost in assessment, or a zoning change which would permit an apartment next door, but only if the shoe pinches.

Meetings of the Township Board, School



## Some Experience: Entire Family Gains By Visit

The John Netzels, of 32263 Hearshstone, Farmington, and their four children have just had an experience which Mrs. Netzels believes would profit anyone lucky enough to live in affluent suburbia.

AFTER obtaining approval for a child to visit in their home, the Netzels journeyed

down to Detroit's 24th Street and picked up their young guest, Detroit's 24th Street saw much of last summer's riots and the Netzels' guest talked quite calmly about her part in the riots during her week in Farmington. The conversation amazed her hosts.

Even more amazing was another thing their guest told them—

According to Mrs. Netzels, the child's teeth were in terrible condition from lack of care and the child said, when told to brush her teeth, "My momma told me not to brush my teeth because they may fall out."

HIGHLIGHT of the youngster's visit was the birthday party Mrs. Netzels gave for her on her 10th birthday, complete with cake with candles and birthday gifts, something the child had never received.

She also received a two-wheel bike, another thing she had never had. Thirteen neighborhood kids spent hours fixing the bike up and bought new tires for it.

The Netzels took their guest to their neighborhood swim club, but she fell out of the place because she was the only Negro in the pool. They then took

her out to Kensington where she felt less conspicuous and had a glorious time.

Another big thrill for the inner-city child was a trip to the local ice cream parlor and the chance to eat all the melon she wanted. She ate three.

BECAUSE the child has no father at home, she never ceased to be excited when Netzels came home from work at night.

Mrs. Netzels says the youngster responded more to her husband than anyone in the family.

The Farmington family doesn't expect to see any immediate results from the experience among their children, but Mrs. Netzels says, "I hope and know they learned a little bit about compassion and prejudice."

"I just wish more Farmington people would take advantage of this program because it would be a revelation to them how fortunate they are," she says.

CPA Elected

Lewis F. Foster, 35219 13 Mile Rd., Farmington, has been elected a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Board, Planning Commission, and other bodies aren't any different, and sometimes one feels it would serve the public right if we, too, forgot their existence.

ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT, in its operation, does have a tendency toward repetitious routine, and maybe that's why ex-officio pressurized group meetings—like subdivision associations, for instance—should get top billing. These are where the real amateurs get their innings.

If we can get the thing organized, the next prospect of this pillar of truth will be to bring together for a display of vitriolic oratory all females named Virginia. It should be a cinch sellout.

Background for this thinking is the reaction there has been to a national series of newspaper advertisements, including several in this publication, bearing as a typical caption, "Yes, Virginia, You Are a Rumor Monger."

This has riled the Virginia clan no end. They never beefed about that oft-quoted New York editorial, "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," but now that "Ginny" has been painted a different hue the girls are up in arms.

The whole thin-skinned desire to place a personal interpretation upon a new twist of a familiar quotation is ridiculous. It does demonstrate, though, that apathy can be conquered and that in itself is reassuring.

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## Retirement Plan

Continued from Page 1 would be reduced from 10 to five.

5. Survivor pensions, now based upon 25 years of service, would become payable under the new plan to beneficiaries of employees who die after completing 15 years of service.

Employee statistics as of last Dec. 31 showed the city had four general employees who had reached the age of 60 and had at least 10 years of service, one public safety employee with more than 10 years who had reached 55, and two other general employees with 15-year records who are at least 30 years of age.

4. In case of non-duty total disability, the years of required service to make the employee eligible for disability benefits

## Human Figure Would Never Win Top Prize

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Because this is the time of the year when people wear less clothing, we are reminded of an oldtime minstrel routine about the imperfection of the human body.

When you think about it, the human figure does leave a lot to be desired. We're not referring to too-fat, too-thin, too-sloppy figures or knobby knees—we're referring to the functional design of the human form.

For instance—how about those itches in the middle of your back you can never quite reach because your arms aren't long enough?

MAY WE MAKE some observations—Why are we so constituted that we lose our laps when we stand up? Think of how handy an ever-ready lap would be for carrying cafeteria trays or shopping in the supermarket.

Then, why were our mouths placed in the middle of our faces? If they were on top of our heads, a man could throw his breakfast in his hat and eat it on his way to work. Dribbling soup down the vest would also be passe.

Why have two eyes on the same side of the face? You can't see where you've come from and the design makes for poor driving.

ALSO, the nose is completely wrong because the nostrils point downward, which is terrible when you have a runny nose. If they pointed up, the nose would never run.

Then, too, the calf of the leg is in the wrong place. It should be in front to protect the shin. Nobody ever gets kicked in the calf.

About that back scratching—if one's arm bent two ways it would be such a comfort and much more adapted to relieving itches than a door jamb.

The ears could also come in for some redesigning. Why is it just animals can bend their ears to catch a sound?

MAYBE we're afflicted with all these imperfections because we haven't evolved enough. Centuries hence, when we're living on the moon, we may not need feet, arms, eyes, ears or noses.

## Troop 110 Has Court Of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 110, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Church of Farmington, held its spring Court of Honor June 19.

Tenderfoot Investiture for Scouts Steve Brodie, Jim Day, Jeff Schwartz, Kevin Sprang, Pete Wood, and Richard Lillay was conducted by Assistant Scoutmasters Gene Letourneau and Ralph Mattheuer of Troop 110.

Second Class Scouts Terry Crawford, Joseph Hansen, Gary Winkel, Paul Hebelier and Martin Kelly received their insignia from Dale Hutton, assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 179 of Farmington.

Fred Monroy, assistant district commissioner for the Ottawa District, presented First Class Awards to Scouts Jerry Delaney, David Callouette and Jim Sutherland.

Star Awards earned by Scouts Edwin Sompost, Dan Wood and Bill Reller were presented by Ottawa District Commissioner Victor Stockell.

A Gold Palm was presented to Eagle Scout Bill Sprang by Fred Stegauer, assistant Ottawa District commissioner.

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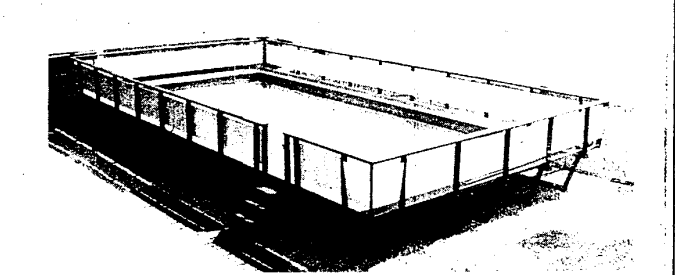
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