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Philip H. Power, Publisher

The Observer

OF FARMINGTON

This Week's Press Run

89,800

The six Observer Newspapers are Michigan's Largest Weekly Newspapers. Complete coverage of the minute news of local interest at Saturday coverage of dramatic Western Wayne County.

This Edition Contains

40 PAGES

Motor Cycles and Clubs

FACT OR FAD

Farmington Officials Believe Them Part of New Way of Life

With the vast increase in interest in motor cycles and motor cycle clubs in the suburban areas—an interest that brought with it traffic problems and great concern among law enforcing agencies—the question is often asked:



JOHN DINAN

"Are these clubs just another fad or are they going to be with us always?"

Some of the folks who ask this question recall the excitement of other days when the land was infested with flagpole sitters, gold fish, wall to wallers, hoola hoops, marathon dancing and skate boards.

These fads in most cases are now just memories.

But motor cycles and motor cycle clubs—they're another question.

The question was put to John Dinan, the portly City Manager who does a great standup job while sitting down, and he quickly confided that in his opinion the motor cycles and attendant clubs are here to stay.

"Just look at the increase in numbers," he stated, "and you can see that this is not a fad or fancy. In the past two years registrations of motor cycles in Michigan have jumped about 200 per cent. They went from 39,000 in 1964 to an estimated 125,000 this year. This estimate is not mine. It comes from the office of the Secretary of State and should be authentic."

"I'll grant you," he continued, "they cause many problems. But I think they are here to stay and we must make the best of it. Take the accident picture in the City of Farmington as an example. During the past year accidents involving motor cycles have increased 200 per cent. And here is the danger—about 50 per cent of the accidents involved young folks about 17 years old and upward. And in 26 out of 28 accidents the victims required hospitalization."

"In Farmington we figured the best way to handle this problem was to find a way to control it. So, we passed an ordinance that requires licensing of machines, licensing of rentals and locations and the mandatory use of goggles and helmets. This, at least, gives us a little control."

What brought about the increased interest?

Police Chief Robert Deadman was quick to answer—"The importing of the motor cycles made in Japan."

Asked to explain, he said: "You can buy a brand new 'Honda' for less than the price these young folks had to pay for a used car several years ago."

It was pointed out that not many years ago the motor cycle clubs were mostly composed of older folks and their chief interest was in "hill-climbing."

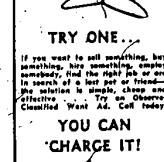
"Fine," said the Chief, "but that's not exciting enough for the young folks today."

"So," he went on, "we have hit upon the thought that, inasmuch as they will be with us for several years, or more, the best thing to do is to train the owners."

"We started classes—not to teach driving, but to teach traffic and safety rules and we have found them most successful."

"And most important," he concluded, "these young folks are eager to learn the hazards of their new interest. That's a help."

From the views of these two officials there can be little doubt—motor cycles and motor cycle clubs are not just a fad. They'll be with us for a long time.



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Township Gets Approval For \$550,112 Bond Sale

City Firemen Await Big Parade

Fire equipment of all shapes and sizes, both old and new, will be in the procession when the annual Fire Prevention Day Parade makes its way through the streets of the town area on Saturday.

Headed by Smoke the Bear and the much publicized float of the State Department

City Splits Contracts

In a move designed to save at least \$2.4 million of the taxpayers' money the Farmington City Council split the contracts for three different paving jobs at its regular session on Monday night.

As a result the A&A Asphalt Inc. was given the job of paving the alleys—Violet to Lilac, Lilac to Floral and Nine Mile Road to Hawthorne, at a cost of \$8,585.80.

The contract for the DPW yard and the Ten-Mile Magic Square was awarded to the Universal Asphalt Paving Company at a cost of \$2,522.02.

The third portion of the program gave city engineers and resurfacing of Wilmarth, Cass Court and Hamlin Court—was delayed to obtain new bids.

Low bidder on this job was the Washburn Asphalt Company, with a bid of \$10,062, but this figure was considerably over the original estimate and Council instructed City Manager John Dinan to obtain new bids, while the City Engineer is revising the specifications.

In other action Council approved the special assessment rates for the paving jobs, granted permission for the UP to make its annual canvass and granted the Jaycees permission to use the City Park for touch football.

It also gave a verbal salute to Police Chief Robert Steadman and his team for winning the recent pistol shooting championship.

Two Rings Stolen

Sneak thieves broke through the rear windows of the home of Mary Kunes, 29116 Bartlett, over the weekend and got away with two rings of great sentimental value.

One was a 10 karat wedding ring and the other an engagement ring.

of Conservation, the lineup will contain equipment from many of the surrounding communities, floats, bands marching units, a color guard and the big train of the 40/8 group.

Also included in the parade will be Chief Thunder lightning fireball starter and his Indian tribe of warriors, the fastest gun cowboy this side of Middlebelt Road and a box of Queens.

The parade, which gives every promise of being bigger and better than in other years, will get under way promptly at noon. It will form at Monney Street and Grand River and will proceed west on Grand River to the City Hall at 21600 Liberty Street.

At the conclusion of the parade there will be a short ceremony on the front steps of the City Hall, with City Manager John Dinan serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

The American Legion Color Guard will post the stars and stripes, the Farmington High School band will play the national anthem, Rev. David Stone will say the benediction.

All city officials will be on hand to help make the day one long to be remembered. There will be a few short speeches and then the presentation of the 1966 trophies.

Following the official ceremonies the Firemen will play host at an open house that will open with the cutting of the ribbon and the opening of the doors to admit the guests.

Included in the open house activities will be the distribution of all types of literature dealing with fire prevention



Polishing up for Big Day

and this will be followed with refreshments to close the day.

One of the major trophies to be awarded this year will go to the merchant, manufacturer or organization with the best window display. As usual, there will be a host of other trophies and awards that will be given to the winners during the festivities.

For several years the fire prevention program in Farmington has been given honorable mention on the national level.

This year there is hope that parade and the attendant ceremonies will move up much higher on the list.

Unfair Cry Is Studied

The Farmington Board of Education met in a closed study session Monday evening and the recent grievance filed by the Farmington Education Association over secondary school working hours no doubt was a topic of discussion.

Board action on the grievance which resulted in a member of the FEA charging the Board with "bad faith" is expected to come by a vote at the next regular Board meeting on Oct. 10, according to Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison. This is six days before the 20-day period in which the Board has to act, starting with the day the grievance was presented and read in open session.

The disagreement arose over Article V of the contract (Working Conditions) which states that "the normal teacher's class day shall be 7 1/2 hours." The FEA charges that all secondary teachers must work 7 1/2 hours whereas their elementary counterparts are only working 7 1/2 hours.

(Continued on Page 12-B)

Johnny King Piling Up Strikes

The top name around Bel-Aire lanes these days is none other than Johnny King. He started the 1966-67 bowling season with a big 296 game. Now in the Bel-Aire Classic league he is getting better—298. Johnny also put in games of 182 and 213 for a 693 total.

Old-Timers Recall Two Worst Fires in City

Approach of the annual Fire Prevention Day parade brought back many memories among the older residents of the two worst fires in the city's history.

As these memories came tumbling through the years they spoke of the conflagration that swept the downtown business, made a shambles of the post office and the stores on the south side of Grand River in the '40s along with the blaze that wreaked havoc in the business center at Ten-Mile and Oakland Lake Road in 1958.

Speaking of the big blaze in the downtown area, claimed by many to be the most devastating the area has ever known, the old-timers recalled that it happened on one of the worst nights in the

hard winter. There was ice and slippery streets to battle along with the blaze.

One of those who recalled the horrible night was Mrs. Howard Thayer, who fresh hearts and considerable memory of the blaze gloom in the community, occasionally by looking at a One of the stories the old well prepared scrap book of old-timers relate tells of the utter the event that left heavy confusion that reigned when

the Detroit equipment arrived and it was found that the threads on the connections were different than those on the Farmington apparatus. This enabled the flames to gain more momentum because of the delay.

The 1958 blaze at the National Stores brought many compliments to the city for the manner in which it was handled.

This one was caused by a faulty air conditioner that exploded. As the firemen arrived the employees had just about evacuated the building, but there was a threat of the entire chain of stores being swept.

The old-timers will be discussing these blazes whenever they gather on Saturday.

Two Areas Listed For New Sewer

Farmington Township officials are now prepared to take another long step forward in the betterment of the community.

The opportunity for advancement came during the past week when approval was obtained for the sale of special assessment sewer bonds in the amount of \$550,112.

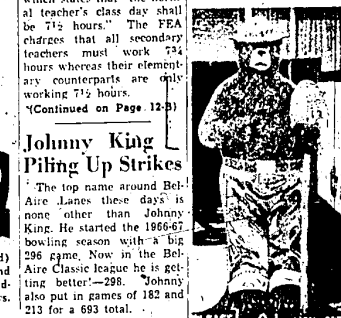
The bonds will cover the improvements in two areas—Grand River Homes and Richland Gardens—both in the area of Grand River and Middlebelt Road.

"The new facilities will be especially helpful in the two areas," he went on, "because of the heavy population. Grand River Homes is about 60 per cent completed while Richland Gardens is about 70 per cent built."

The new sewers not only will accommodate for 400 units and the amount of the bonds is \$556,712 in the Richland Gardens area, while the new facilities in Grand River Homes will care for 290 units at a cost of \$193,400.

Approval for the sale of the bonds came from the Municipal Finance Commission in Lansing, The State Board of Health, and the Attorney General, according to Curt Hall Township Supervisor.

"With these two projects, financed over a period of 15 years," he said, "we will now have approximately 45 miles (Continued on Page 12-B)"



PLEASE! Only you can prevent forest fires

OUR GUEST: Here is "Smoke," the mascot who is making his annual visit to the community and will be in a featured role in Saturday's big parade.

What's Inside FARMINGTON

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Remember! This Is Shop In Farmington Month