

Volume 83 Number 75

Paper Late Next Week

In observance of July 4, the Observer Newspapers Inc. offices will be closed Tuesday but business will be conducted as usual on Monday, July 3.

The deadlines for advertising and editorial departments will follow the usual pattern. News items will be accepted until 6 p.m. Monday, display advertising Monday until 5 p.m. and classified advertising until 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The Observers will be published and distributed Thursday. All readers are requested to note the delay of one day in circulation deliveries. . . all due to the Tuesday holiday.

Horse Doctor

A local "vet." who has spent a lifetime tracing rare diseases of horses and now works in a local animal hospital talks about his career in today's Farmington Enterprise and Observer.

Page 2A

Pigeon Race

Is a bird in the hand worth three disc jockeys? Preliminary work on the great Farmington Pigeon Race is already under way, and one stumbling block has been removed.

Page 3A

A Lot Of Work

It was a lot of work, but it was worth it! This is the opinion of the cast and crew of the musical "Mackinac!" who gave a performance on the Island last Sunday.

Page 10B

Amusements	10B
Bowling	8A
Churches in Action	6,7A
Classified Want Ads	1-9B
Deaths and Funerals	7A
Focus: Suburbia	Sec. C
Sports-Prep and Pro	8,9A
Spotlight on Women	10A
Turf Tips & Quips	9A

FOCUS: Suburbia



For a nostalgic, interesting look at our most patriotic national holiday, don't miss "The Firecracker Special" -- today's FOCUS: Suburbia feature!

Township Considers Change To 'Punch-Card' Vote System

By DAN McCOSH

The world's worst salesman convinced Farmington Township Clerk Floyd Cairns to try and initiate a "punch card" voting system in township elections, replacing the familiar lever-type machines with a modern, computer-counted system. The township board still has to consider the changeover. Cairns says he is going to present the idea soon, probably at the next board meeting, but Cairns personally is enthusiastic about getting the new system in operation by the presidential election in November.

HE ADMITS it took him a while to decide to go for the punch cards, first used in Michigan in 1965 in the city of Midland and rapidly becoming the standard method of voting in many communities.

Population increases demanded about 10 new voting machines for the township's 10 precincts, and last April the board sent Cairns to the State of Washington to buy some used machines.

A county clerk in "some county with an Indian name" out west convinced Cairns he didn't really want more machines, but ought to look into the new punch-card system.

"All the clerks around here are getting them," the clerk told Cairns, thereby leading himself a customer for his used machines, which were for sale because that county was switching to the newer system.

Flying back empty handed, Cairns looked up representatives of Computer Election Systems Inc. (CES), a Berkeley, Calif. based corporation that manufactures the punch-card machines and provides followup service for their use.

After seeing the machines demonstrated, he watched an election run out in Lansing, which uses the punch cards. Ninety-one precincts were counted 2½ hours after the polls closed.

That convinced him, and he began to check into details of a system for the township.

PUNCH CARDS are not new, but are still unfamiliar to many voters.

When you go to the polls, an election worker gives you a computer card—the familiar "IBM" card about the size of a standard check.

The "voting booth" looks a little like an open briefcase on four legs. Plastic sides screen the voting machine from view, instead of the familiar curtain.

What looks like a small booklet clipped onto a plastic tray is the actual voting "machine". You slip the computer card into a slot at the top of the tray, and open the booklet.

Using a metal stylus, you poke holes in the card next to the candidate of your choice. Finished, you pull out the card, put it into an envelope and give it back to the election worker.

The card is then put into a ballot box, later taken to a computer center to be counted.

The stacked ballots can be run through the computer in minutes, and a printout records the total votes for each office.

Cairns has contacted the Farmington School District and hopes to use a computer terminal in the school administration offices for the actual counting.

THE ADVANTAGES of the system, other than the speed of counting, according to Cairns, are:

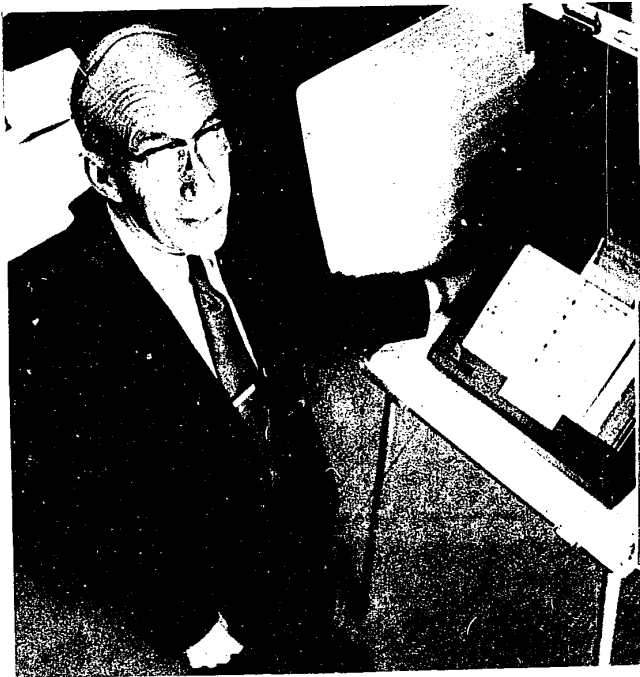
- A permanent record is available with the cards, unlike the voting machines which don't record individual votes.

- The print on the booklet is easier for senior citizens to read than the vertical display on a voting machine.

- The machines are less than \$300 a piece, compared to about \$2,100 for conventional machines.

- The whole punch-card machine folds up to the size of a briefcase, cutting expensive storage costs dramatically.

BUT PUNCH CARD voting in Michigan took a serious setback when a brand new system installed in Detroit fouled up the count for the 1970



NEW MACHINE -- Township Clerk Floyd Cairns poses with a model of the new punch-card voting machine. (Observer photo)

November election for several days.

That nightmare haunts city clerks today, despite smooth-running systems in many towns in the state.

Another disadvantage is that it is possible to "over vote"—vote both "yes" and "no" on a proposition, or for both candidates for an office.

Machines won't do this, but the old paper ballot had the same disadvantage. Over voting isn't really a serious

problem, according to CES but is a possibility.

THE COST of the changeover is another thing prompting Cairns to make the move.

The old machines may glut the market if most communities switch to the new system, he says, and if he waits until after the

November election it will be two years before there is any demand for used machines again.

CES has offered to swap the old machines for twice as many new ones for about \$1,700, Cairns says.

The state election commission requires twice as many punch-card machines as regular voting machines, and this means Farmington Township would probably buy 140 new ones to replace 59 presently in use.

Those 10 machines Cairns went to Washington to buy are another problem. He still doesn't have them, and needs

them before the August primary.

If punch-card is turned down by the board, the new machines will have to be purchased. CES has offered to loan 10 machines for the primary if the new system is purchased for November, Cairns says.

He also hopes to sell his old machines for a larger profit than CES has offered, and could make money on the changeover.

Schools Name New Director

Farmington Schools have named Graham Lewis, former administrator of special education for Pontiac Schools, as director of special education. Lewis replaces Theodore Cunio, who has taken a job as director of elementary education in Bloomfield Hills. Lewis has worked in Pontiac all of his professional life, starting as a teacher and working his way up to his present post.

Currently living in Pontiac, he is teaching a course at the University of Maine this summer. He starts his new job Aug. 1. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, and a masters degree from Wayne State University. Born in Cardiff, Wales, he came to this country at the age of 16. He is married and has one child.

Cluster Housing Vote Next Week

Final approval of a new "cluster housing" zone on a 22-acre parcel on the west side of Drake Rd. north of Freedom Rd. is on the agenda for the Farmington City Council meeting, rescheduled to Wednesday, July 5 at city hall.

The council approved an amended cluster housing ordinance last meeting, and split 3-1 on rezoning the controversial parcel.

A 4-1 vote, at least 75 per cent of the council, is necessary to rezone the land in view of petitions protesting the rezoning from surrounding homeowners.



BOOKS PRESENTED -- Farmington's "Hill and Dale" garden club presented two books per grade level for 19 Farmington elementary schools on "People and their Environment" recently. Mrs. Stephen Blum, president of the

Farmington Garden Club, and Mrs. Vernon Vickland, president of the Hill and Dale club, present the books to Larry Freedman, director of elementary education, and Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education. (Evert photo)