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SWEARING IN the new supervisor, Robert McConnell (right), is Farmington Township Clerk Floyd Cairns. (Evert photo)

Changes Wrought During Smith Era

FARMINGTON The resignation of Dr. Ruderrick Smith, 52, superintendent of the Farmington School District, came after a stormy but progressive 5 1/2 year term.

Taking the reins from Gerald Harrison in 1967, Smith joined the Farmington administrative staff after serving in other school districts as a teacher, principal, college president and school superintendent.

He attended Greenville College, Ill., where he received his BS degree, and

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earned a MA and PhD in education at Michigan State University.

AMONG THE innovations during Smith's tenure were:

- The open space concept and team teaching approach at the Wood Creek Elementary School.
- Formation of the Family Life Education (FLE) committee, which recommended curriculum programs on sex education, minority understanding, and "substance abuse."
- An elementary counselor program.
- Media centers and multi-purpose rooms at elementary schools.
- A new social studies series for secondary grades.
- A public relations director.
- Modular construction and contract manager system to reduce building costs.
- Open study sessions for the board of education.
- Citizens Advisory Council.
- Completion of Harrison High School and Power Junior High.

• Implementation of the student round table.

SMITH FIRST ran into trouble with the board in 1970 when the FLE was formed. The next year the board gave him a one year contract instead of the usual three. The FLE dealt with the

controversial sex education program and drew much opposition from conservative members of the board and community.

But in July of this year the storm seemed to have blown over, and Smith was granted a three-year contract. It seemed to be an indication that the trustees had settled their differences with the superintendent.

Since ratification of that contract another dispute, over the role of board committees flared up. Smith felt that a number of committees should be curtailed and running of the school system be left primarily to administrators.

In the past weeks there has been a series of open study sessions to determine the role of committees in the school district. Monday night's session on that subject was canceled.

Smith, a Farmington Township resident, is a past president of the North Farmington Kiwanis and member of the Farmington Optimists.

He is married and the father of four children.

Tag Day Success

FARMINGTON Contributions to the North Farmington band "tag day" totaled more than \$3,000, Alan C. Bendon, resident of the North Farmington Band Boosters Assn., said.

"The booster organization offers a heartfelt thanks to the many thousands of our friends whose generosity made our tag day activity a success," Bendon said.

A tenor saxophone, clarinet and an oboe will be purchased with a part of the money, he added.

Miss Fedeson In Concert

FARMINGTON June Fedeson of Farmington is among Western Michigan University dancers currently in rehearsal for a Christmas concert presentation involving students from the art, music and dance departments in the newly created College of Fine Arts.

Miss Fedeson lives at 35509 Springdale Rd.

The students will present Vaughan Williams' "Hodie." The dancers, symphony orchestra and Grand Chorus will perform and art students will design the stage setting.

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McConnell Is Sworn In

Farmington Township Supervisor Robert McConnell promised an "open door policy" to township employees during a brief swearing in ceremony at Township Hall Monday afternoon.

He took the oath of office, administered by Township Clerk Floyd Cairns, just 20 minutes after the official noon expiration of the term of outgoing supervisor Earl Teeplees.

The bulk of his remarks were directed at incorporation.

"I AM LOOKING for a spring election," he said, and added the draft of the charter for the proposed City of Farmington Hills would be ready by the "first or second week in December."

McConnell, who is also chairman of the charter

commission, based his campaign for township supervisor almost entirely on "providing leadership in town hall" for incorporation.

During his swearing in speech, he also spoke of the "historical background" of the villages, township and present City of Farmington, and said he hoped he could "bring them together."

As chairman of the charter commission, McConnell expects a vote either by the end of the month or the first part of December on four major provisions of the charter, which have been put aside in the interests of moving the technical writing along.

These include the tax rate, whether to have elections at large or a modified ward system, the bonding limits and the salaries of councilmen.

Dress Drive Needs Help

FARMINGTON The Goodfellow Dress Drive is still in need of donations of either dresses or money, according to Chairman Mrs. John Richardson, 34069 Alta Loma.

The annual dress drive provides dresses for needy girls in the Farmington area. Two fashion shows of the dresses modeled by the children of the dress drive workers, are being planned, according to Mrs. Richardson. After the modeling, the dresses will be distributed, along with other Goodfellow contributions.

"Just \$3 will give a little girl a new dress," Mrs. Richardson said. She asks anybody interested in making a contribution to contact her.

Man Held In Shooting

FARMINGTON Theodore W. Syles, 22, Detroit, is in critical condition at Botsford Hospital after being shot in the neck, apparently during an argument at 34794 Rhonswood, Farmington, Monday night.

Farmington Township Police arrested Harry Barnum, 54, of the Rhonswood address, and charged him with assault with intent to commit murder.

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