Hospital findings awaited

The Fairfield Hospital Committee was to meet with Mercy Hospital officials at 4 p. m. today to hear a report on the proposed Fairfield hospital, as compiled during a survey conducted by Tribrook Group Inc., consultants for the Ohio Hospital Association.

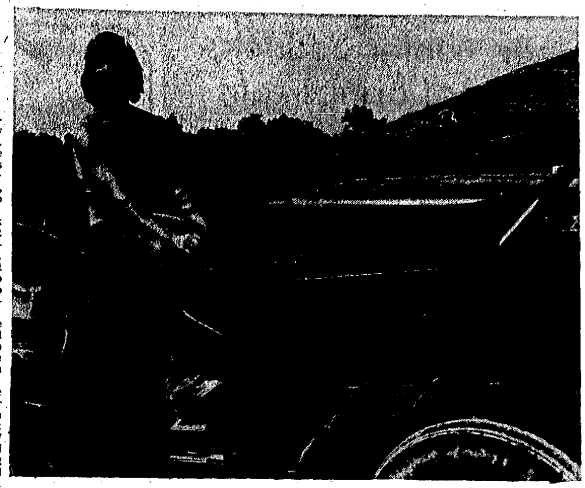
Representatives of Tribrook presented a preliminary report to the Fairfield committee Monday night in the city building. Tribrook is expected to present the preliminary findings to members of the Central Ohio River Valley Authority (CORVA) today.

It was reported today that the survey shows the area could absorb a 310 - bed hospital, with the proposed site being in the area of Rte. 4 and By - Pass 4, in Fairfield.

The proposed hospital, to be constructed on a site of 50 or more acres, would be built in three phases, with the first phase to cost an estimated $17 million. The final phase would be completed by 1985, providing additional beds, with the total costs being an estimated $21 million.

Financing for the project, according to reports, would be arranged through Community Improvement Corp. bonds plus public solicitations.

Mercy Hospital officials and the Fairfield Hospital Committee have been meeting for several months to discuss the possible move of Mercy Hospital to the Fairfield site.



JOHN EUGENE (JACK) RITCHEY, 22, tries to start the used tractor at Bunker Hill Haven farm where he was busy preparing to pour a concrete floor for the garage. Jack and his wife, Jeanne, were married this summer. He is a graduate of Miami University. Journal-News photo by Ercel Eaton.

Outdoor theater tract requested in Fairfield

By JIM NEWTON
Journal-News Writer

The Fairfield City Council Public Improvement Committee has been asked to consider transferring to the City Park and Recreation Board a parcel of city-owned land for construction of a proposed outdoor theater.

Dale E. Price, director of public safety and service for Fairfield, made the request in a memo to Councilman James Rice, public improvement committee chairman.

The land, located on the wooded hillside south of the Fairfield branch of Lane Public Library, would be developed by public subscription in a financial campaign to be sponsored by the O'Tucks organization.

Price said the city would retain title to the property, and the outdoor theater would be operated by the City Park and Recreation Board.

If the transfer is approved, and the project is successful, it would be the first outdoor theater in the Golden Triangle area. The theater would be similar in many respects to other outdoor theaters in Kentucky and Tennessee and would serve as a site for outdoor concerts and other entertainment.

Councilman John Davison, a committee member, in the absence of Rice, said Monday night he will ask City Solicitor Robert Wessel to prepare legislation for the property to be transfered to the City Park and Recreation Board for discussion. The proposal is expected to be presented when council meets in caucus session at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21.

The O'Tucks have unanimously endorsed the project, offering to cooperate with the city and to direct the fund raising drive.

The proposal was initiated by Stanley Dezarn, O'Tucks program chairman, Jim Newton and Fairfield Mayor William Harbin.

If council approves the transfer to the City Park and Recreation Board, local architects will be asked to prepare plans and estimated costs of the project, with the fund-raising campaign expected to start within a month.

Utility increase on agenda

Hamilton City Council will meet in special session at 8 p. m. Wednesday to give second reading to legislation increasing the water and sewer rates.

The increases have been recommended by the city's consulting engineers. The water rate is to be increased 50 per cent, across the board. The proposed sewer rate is nearly double the present schedule for residential users and triple the old rate for industrial consumers.

The increases are designed to offset a $17,000 a month deficit in the two utilities and generate funds to cover the cost of improving the two plants — water plant and waste water treatment plant.

In each case, the State of Ohio has set up requirements which the city must meet for pollution control purposes.

These pollution control standards of the state and federal government will require the city to make capital improvements at each of the plants.

The last increase in water rates for Hamilton consumers was 12 years ago and the last adjustment in sewer charges was 10 years ago.

Seize 'pot' on the vine

Fairfield police seized 35 marijuana plants at an undisclosed apartment complex Monday, following a three - day stakeout according to Police Chief Sam W. Bowling.

The chief said some of the plants were 15 feet tall, and were found growing near a patio in what he described as a patio in what he stated.

Sgt. T. O. Marsh, Ptl. Richard Hounchel and Robert Gerhardt participated in the seizure.

Bowling said the street value of the marijuana was approximately $250. He said he was not expecting any arrest, because police "couldn't prove that the owner knew about" the plants.

Couple's dream fulfilled: Farm at Reily becomes home for boys

By ERCEL EATON
Journal-News Writer

Come the first of October and Mrs. Walter Pater of Coral Gables, Fla. will see the culmination of a long - held dream.

And that dream is taking place in Butler County at 1050 Garner Road in Reily Township where workmen are renovating a big, old farmhouse into a home for boys.

Bunker Hill Haven will be home to eight boys, assigned there by an advisory board composed of Judge David Black of Domestic Relations Court; William Schaffner, director of Butler County Welfare; the Rev. William Schroeder of the Hamilton Deanery; and the Rev. James Troxell, president of the Protestant Ministers Association.

Dr. Walter Pater, a Hamilton ear, nose and throat specialist, and Mrs. Pater planned for years what they would do with the 130 - acre farm, and in 1966 they began proceedings to turn over to Gus Condo, trustee, funds and instructions for establishing a home for "poor, destitute, or needy children."

"Before the doctor's death in 1969," said Mrs. Pater in an interview on the beautiful, lush farm, "we would come up in the summertime and he would work around the lakes, hauling up gravel from the creek to make the roadbed nicer."

And the roads are still "nice." The car was driven all through the lovely acres, across below the two lakes and through wooded areas, the roadsides lined with queen Anne's lace and bright, blue summer flowers.

"We used to picnic here every Sunday," Mrs. Pater recalled, climbing from the car to stand, remembering, above the lake, pointing out a huge oak that is about right for boys to climb.

Back at the farmhouse, the youth director, John Eugene Ritchey and his wife, Jeanne were working near a trailer which is their temporary home until the remodeling is completed. Three large bedrooms on the second floor will serve as sleeping quarters for the boys, Condo explained.

The main floor of the house will contain private quarters for the youth director and his wife, a large eat - in kitchen and living room. Basement rooms are being readied for games and "we hope there is someone somewhere who has a pool table he doesn't need."



MRS. WALTER PATER, center, studies the front of the farmhouse, along with Gus Condo, trustee, and Mrs. Jeanne Ritchey as they discuss the renovation of the building. Workmen are completing the inside remodeling. Journal-News photo by Ercel Eaton.

Bunker Hill Haven has tax exempt status as a private foundation from the Internal Revenue Service and the Ohio Tax Commission, Condo said, and will be operated with funds from the Pater grant supplemented by Butler County Welfare funds.

Mrs. Pater, the former Florence Seegers, and her husband resided at Sixth and Dayton Sts. Dr. Pater maintained his office in the Rentschler Building before his retirement and their move to Florida several years ago.

Situated near Pater Lake, the farm has acres of pastureland, wooded areas, a large barn and a garden, which the Ritchey's planted last spring and which Mrs. Ritchey is planning to harvest — canning and freezing the vegetables.

Back from the drive around the farm, Mrs. Pater, who resides in the Anthony Wayne Apartments while in Hamilton, said:

"I'm very happy about it . . . if you can just help a few children, it is worth all the trouble."

Cin'ti postal group elects Hamiltonian

Ray Garrett, Champion International Corp., Hamilton, was elected vice chairman of the 800 member Cincinnati Postal Customers Council.

His election marked the first time the organization has had an officer from outside the immediate Cincinnati area in its 10 - year history.

Ed Bamert, Billboard Publications Inc., was re-elected chairman. Officers were elected at a meeting of the 50 member executive committee of the organization. Postmaster Joseph J. Scanlon presented Bamert with a U. S. Postal Service public service award for efforts in behalf of better postal service and establishment of communication lines with business mailers.



MR. GARRETT

Boy on bike hit by car

Mathew Nunn, 6, 1350 Mosier Ave., suffered minor injuries about 6:50 p.m. Monday when he rode his bicycle off the sidewalk onto Kahn Ave., at Hensley Ave., and was struck by an auto.

The boy said he was coasting down the hill and was unable to stop. William W. Stroufe, 56, 111 Michael Ave., driver of the car, said he applied brakes but was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.

Fairfield OKs fire aid pact

By JIM NEWTON
Journal-News Writer

Fairfield City Council has approved a resolution to cooperate with the City of Hamilton for the control of fires along the limits between the two cities.

Council action came Monday night, during regular session.

While the two cities will provide mutual assistance in case of fires, Hamilton will continue to charge $16 for life squad calls made whether in Fairfield or Hamilton. Fairfield offers free life squad service to its residents.

Council approved as an emergency ordinance the transfer of $100,000 from the unappropriated street funds to the street materials account, to pay costs of the street repair program now in progress.

The first reading was given to an ordinance to rezone 47.2 acres of land off Hunter Road, near the Civitan Club, from agriculture to single family residence, as requested by John C. Fetters, developer.

Mrs. Esther Benzing, representing the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the 18th annual antique and classic car parade, presented a plaque to Sgt. Gary Rednour of the Fairfield Police Dept., expressing gratitude for the cooperation of the department and its auxiliary officers during the recent parade in Fairfield.

Six of the seven councilmen were present: Sterling Uhler, Ben Groh, Carl Rosenbauer, Bernie Jones, John Davison and Paul Keegan, who conducted the meetingas president pro tem. Council President Charles Judd served as acting mayor. Mayor William Harbin is out of the city.

Also attending were Auditor George Schlering, Solicitor Robert Wessel and Safety-Service Director Dale Price.

Council gave the final reading and approved an ordinance to rezone 6.99 acres of land off Talawanda Drive, from agriculture to single family residence, as requested by A & B Builders.

Taft plans car wash

The Taft High School cheerleaders will scrub away grease and grime on automobiles Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Sohio station at Main St. and Lawn Ave., announced Dennis Reiter, cheerleading sponsor.

"The money we get will be used to pay for the paint for the bleachers," he explained.

Italians plan trip

Members of the Italian - American Society who plan to attend the Cincinnati Reds - Philadelphia baseball game on Saturday, Aug. 26 must have their ticket reservations by Monday, Aug. 21.

Reservations can be called into Tom Cappella Jr., 895-7991 or Dick Pate, 895-5493.

Police vet retires; 'broke in' the chief



PTL. BETZ

Patrolman Charles Betz, a 28-year veteran on the Hamilton police department, has retired.

Betz, who has worked in many capacities since his appointment Dec. 27, 1943, was assigned to walking patrol in the central business district the last two years.

An expert marksman, he was a member of the Hamilton Police Pistol Team which won the national police championship in Toledo in 1954.

Betz, who served under four police chiefs, is one of the veteran officers who "broke in" the present, chief, Col. George V. McNally, when McNally was a rookie back in 1951. At that time Betz was assigned to the East Hamilton Beat.

"We are losing a good man in Charlie Betz," Col. McNally said. "He will be hard to replace. He was devoted to police work and was well thought of by his co-workers and the public."

McNally said he personally went to Betz's home to ask him to reconsider after he turned in his letter of resignation, effective Aug. 10.

Betz and his wife, Rose are the parents of three sons, Gene, Jack and Charles Jr.

Police Blotters

ARRESTS

Jesse S. Burrage, 18, 186 Joe Ave., New Miami, charged at 12:40 p. m. Monday with larceny in alleged theft of a combination tape player and radio from the automobile of Miss Patricia Monegan, 4160 Glendale - Milford Road.

Robert Arlo Kraus, 45, 3837 Kraus Lane, arrested at 3:05 a. m. Tuesday on Hamilton - Cleves Road on charges of driving while under the influence of alcohol and resisting arrest.

VANDALISMS

Linville Turner, 1308 Bonacker Ave., reported vandals caused $500 damage breaking two large plate glass windows at the King Tire Co., 625 East Ave.

THEFTS

David Urmston, 6481 Princeton - Glendale Road, reported theft of a riding mower valued at $800 from garage.

Teddy Pitts, 7465 Franklin - Madison Road, reported $315, two government bonds valued at $50 and a $71 check taken after rear door was pried open and his house ransacked. Also missing are four rifles.

OTHER REPORTS

A 14 - year - old boy was cited to the Youth Aid Bureau Monday after he allegedly was caught taking $24.97 worth of clothing from Elder - Beerman, Second and High Sts.

Donald Noheer, 9, 303 Corwin Ave., suffered burns on both feet when he walked on hot tar while barefooted at St. Clair and Van Hook Aves. Patrolman Don Noes took him to Mercy Hospital.

Christal Ashcraft, 40, 2942 Pleasant Ridge, is reported in fair condition at Mercy Hospital with multiple fractured ribs, left wrist fracture and facial injuries suffered Monday night in an altercation at her home, according to the hospital.

Fire destroys Fairfield home

Fire caused by a gasoline explosion destroyed a home in Fairfield Township about 8:15 p.m. Monday and burned an 18-year-old Kentucky youth who was visiting at the residence.

Treated at Mercy Hospital was Fred Kidwell of Donerail, Ky. who was visiting Mr and Mrs. Roy Lee Miller, 2909 Allstatter Ave. He suffered burns of the left arm and body. He was taken to the hospital by the Fairfield Township life squad.

Amount of loss to the Miller home was not estimated by Fairfield Township Fire Chief William Hieb. Both companies responded and upon their arrival, firemen found the entire five-room house ablaze.

Kidwell and another nephew, Charles Miller Jr., 18, had obtained gasoline from the automobile of Miller's father in front of the home to use in a power lawn mower. Upon walking through the home to the rear yard, the two youths stopped in the kitchen to have a cup of coffee and apparently set the can of gasoline near a hot water heater.

Miller told firemen he and the two youths were drinking coffee when the gasoline exploded showering them with flames. Force of the explosion knocked Kidwell to the floor.

Miller said "It blew at once. The whole house was in flames."

He said it took him and his nephew about two minutes to assist Kidwell from the burning structure.

Miller said his wife and their four small children were visiting in Kentucky at the time of the fire. He said he had returned to Hamilton from Kentucky only a short time before.

Firemen poured water on adjoining homes to prevent the flames from reaching them. The interior of the Miller home was burned out and the family's personal possessions were reported lost.

Suburban rate drop for water favored

Hamilton City Council has the support of Butler County Commissioner Arthur F. Reiff, who Monday lauded council's actions to lower the rate base for suburban customers of Hamilton city water.

The rate reduction for suburban users would be from 200 down to 150 per cent. Reiff added that an out - of - city additional charge would be justified but not to the extent of 200 per cent.

Council previously heard the first reading of legislation to up city rates 50 per cent. In addition, sewer rates would be revamped to counter departmental operating deficits.

Officials report that Hamilton has been operating at a $17,000 per month deficit in water and sewer departments. In - city water rates have remained constant the past 12 years and sewer rates the past 10.

Although the base for suburban users would be reduced to 150 per cent of the city rate, water rates would rise for the suburbs. The suburban rate, presently 200 per cent, was formulated years ago to enhance annexations to the city.

Residential sewer rates would double and industrial rates triple under the restructuring in that department.

Council must conduct another two readings before the legislation is adopted.

ARK 893-8201

Tax vote petitions examined in Butler

The first petitions for placing the income tax question on the Ohio ballot have been submitted to Secretary of State Ted W. Brown, with only 24 signatures found invalid. Brown said the number of invalid signatures, on 110 petitions bearing 2,166 names from Tuscarawas County, was "low."

Meanwhile, the checking continues at the Butler County Board of Elections offices in Hamilton and its Middletown branch.

The local board received 536 petitions, containing 11,142 signatures. Each local board must conduct a signature - by - signature check of the petitions.

"The Hamilton office will probably be done sometime late in the week. I don't know when the Middletown office will finish," said Mrs. Edna Fath, director f the local board.

Mrs. Fath said estimates of the percentage of signatures being found invalid on the local petitions are not available.

Secretary Brown said similar petitions usually contain 10 to 13 per cent bad signatures.

Repeal factions need 318,414 valid signatures to put the question on the ballot. Last week, 367,000 signatures were submitted, and Brown invalidated about 8,600 names. Other petitions were sent to the counties for checking.

If the revised total falls short of the minimum number of names required, repeal forces have another 10days in which to try for more signatures.

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Journal News, August 15, 1972, Pg. 16, Hamilton, Ohio, US
https://access.newspaperarchive.com/journal-news/1972-08-15/page-16/