Farmington Observer

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opinion

'Good old days' are good memories

"WHAT DO they mean by the good old days?' The Stroller was asked the other day by a young

The Stroller was asked the other day by a young fellow.
Well, that set up a trip down Memory Lane and it was a pleasant journey.
In the "good old days," when The Stroller was a youth, we had corner grocery stores where you walked up to the counter and asked for the items you wanted and they were brought to you.

There was no such thing as walking up and down the alstes trying to find what you wanted and there was no such thing as trading stamps. You paid real money and never had to stand at the counter figuring what what combination of stamps and mony you needed to pay the bill.

IN THE "GOOD old days" it was customary for farmers to bring chickens to town in huge



In the "good old days," each town had its own baseball team and the rivalries between towns were far stronger than the major league rival-ries of today. We would follow the team from town to town and each trip was a holiday

THE TOWN fire hall was part of the "good old days." Each community had its volunteer fire department with hose carriages that had to be pulled to the scene of the blaze. It was always a good test to triumph over a rival company and get to the hydrant first.

The fire hall was headquarters for the made members of the family and the people never complained of it being a hangout and no good for the young fellows. They were delighted that they spent their time at the fire hall for the simple reason they were on hand when a fire alarm went off.

Too bad government isn't a business

WHAT DO a candy company, a meat packer and a county hospital have in common? Very expensive union contracts and man-



and a county hospital have in common?
Very expensive union contracts and managements willing to take extreme steps so that the institutions may survive.

Consider:

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Pred Sanders Co., the longtime metropolitan Detection candy, baked goods and tee cream manufacturer, is about to emerge from bankruptey. When its plant workers refused to ratify a new contract, the company last week fired all 200. A new corporation called Michigan Confections is buying the Sanders company's assets. The new firm will rehire many Sanders workers — but not at the old wage and benefits package, you may rest assured. Tough luck, United Distributive Workers.

Wilson Foods Corp., a major midwestern pork packer, has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy law. Kenneth Griggy, board chairman and CEO, says Wilson Foods' hourly labor costs of \$17 per hour were as much as 80 percent higher than many competitors. Threatened with survival,

Griggy's firm looked to a section of the bank-ruptcy code under which a company can be relieved of "onerous and burdensome" con-tracts and established a new wage-benefit package "in line with the industry," with Griggy himself taking a 40 percent cut. Tough luck, United Food and Commercial Workers.

BY NOW it should be clear what the whole Wayne County General Hospital controversy is about. It certainly isn't about keeping a hospital open for poor folks.

It has to do with the fact that the economic package of Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is as much as 50 percent higher than comparable hospitals, according to County Executive William Lucus.

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Together, change things.

Lucas talks about negotiating concessions, selling he hospital, turning it over to the state, turning it over to the University of Michigan, or selling it to a private operator. . anything to get out from under those labor costs. No one talks seriously about closing it down entirely, any more than Sanders or Wilson Foods will be closed down entirely. Apparently bankruptcy laws don't give county hospitals the same kinds of advantages they give candy makers and hog packers. Otherwise, Wayne County General Hospital, whose costs run 20 percent more than its revenues, could go the Chapter 11 route, and it would be bye-bye, AFSCME.

Too bad government can't be run like a

Too bad government can't be run like a business. Tough luck, voters.



stroller

coops to sell for the family's Sunday dinners.
In our little town, we had an unusual character who brought his crates into town every Friday morning and shouted "chickens and chickens' husbands," meaning that he had both hens

and roosters.

As kids, we used to follow him just to hear his shouting and his conversations with the housewives who came to select their Sunday meal.

oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel asked readers what could be done to improve the quality of life for nursing home residents.

Following are the answers:

First of all, I would say more enforcement should be made in existing laws to improve the quality. Perhaps more laws should be to that effect. Also I think citizen participation is the main factor and if they don't want to do that, I think that's a real tracedy.

One of the biggest improve-ments that the nursing home in-dustry can do, and it is a money making industry, is a rule should be passed and instead of a rule, a

law, that a registered nurse and/ or doctor must be on the premises 24 hours a day. This will take the fly-by-nighters out of the busi-ness and give it to the profession-als.

Yes, I think they should have picnics, like maybe once a month or have games, like maybe once a week like bingo or cards.

I think that's a real tragedy.

I think people need to have a change where they begin to feel that the institution is not important but the people themselves. When they work or come to visit these people, that they are in their librars and that if they are working, they should serve them and to things the way this person would want to have it done. They should treat them as humans.

I think they could improve the nursing homes by improving the quality of the help. Put people on the staff who are more understanding of the aged and who are willing to do their work. Keep the place clean and neat and serve decent food.



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