

Readers' Forum

Old Schools Best

Livonia Schools Too Expensive

EDITOR:

I have no quarrel with you, but I do not agree with you word-for-word in your editorial of 9-25. I will write this in plain U.S. language so even the high school grads that just slipped through can read.

I have lived here in the same house since Sept. 22, 1948 (getting to be an old-timer) this six square miles was Livonia Township then when I took root here. (So did the trees, I'll tell you about them later). Livonia is a city now, and I'm proud to be a Livonian. (A city since 1950).

I, or we I should say, have four boys. All high school grads and some college. The school buildings were not magnificent. The teachers were and that's what counts.

We all know many of our presidents (to this day) went to schools that wouldn't begin to compare with Livonia schools.

Every one of our four boys (sons) can read, write, spell, and work math, etc. just as well and better than most grads of the last few years in Livonia.

At my age I naturally don't mix up with a lot of high school grads but quite a few and I'm surprised how many, about 50 per cent maybe more, can't even spell words more on the simple side. Let alone math, like trig, or some more simple figures. Why, I can take a lot of old-timers, 8th grade grads, (from the old school) that will do much better.

My children went to the old-style schools a few years hence. The building don't make the kids smart. The environment, the teachers, and of course the will to learn. My kids were not extra special. Just ordinary run, average, but they did learn. Now, don't get me wrong. I don't want the kids to go back to the horse and buggy days. We all want progress as

your editorial stated, but let's not be wasteful. I believe in good buildings and teachers. There are hundreds of ways to save. Cut costs, in other words.

For instance, architects' blue prints and so forth. I could go on and on (you name it) but, as a whole, why so many different types of buildings and why so elaborate? I know progress means new ideas and change. I believe in that, but so many changes in building in the same year. That's wasteful.

It sure looks like someone is hauling the loot not only using the pockets but filling them and big ones.

Maybe no one can prove it, yet, but we will wait and see. You can have more regulations than a dog has fleas, but some smart lawyer or politician can always make it look honest and swing the others. Like you have heard said, read between the lines. The lines are misleading. I won't hide behind the fifth, I'll be honest and tell you about my taxes. My home is 20 years old, two bedroom, brick, nothing fancy.

Valuation 1948 \$4,270. Taxes — 1948 \$126.44.

Valuation 1967 \$10,976. Taxes 1967 \$287.22.

Valuation rise of \$6,706. Tax rise \$460.78.

I did build a cheap garage and planted trees and bushes. The garage is so cheap that I will have to build a new one soon, but I'm afraid we'll get slapped for another couple hundred in taxes. So I'm thinking. The trees will have to come down. (Elm disease) If I don't, the state will, and charge us \$200 a piece for about 12 trees.

You can't win, I'm thinking again. I believe in fair pay for teachers, but I don't believe in enormous salaries for the big brass. I believe in economy. I don't like waste. I believe in comfort, but let's not exaggerate and try to build just to say we, in Livonia, have more expensive schools than they have who ever they may be.

I could go on and on, but this

Candy Salesmen Are Stuffing Her

Plymouth Band Deserves Aid

EDITOR:

It has been my pleasure during the last nine months to be a member of the Plymouth Community Band. I understand that some of our hard-working and enthusiastic members have never missed a rehearsal or concert during the 10 years the band has been in existence. We have very competent direction under the baton of James Griffith.

The band manages to offer four music scholarships yearly (two weeks each) to a Michigan music camp to our most deserving young musicians.

The organization offers two concerts during the winter, six weekly park concerts during the summer, participates in the local 4th of July parade, and gives a concert during the Plymouth Fall Festival.

The musicians gladly give of their time and efforts without remuneration. However, there are frequent occasions when we need musical help in certain sections of the band, or desire to buy new concert pieces to present top-quality programs.

The only financial backing that we receive is from the Plymouth Community Credit Union, which is greatly appreciated.

The Plymouth Symphony, which presents six concerts yearly, receives \$2,000 per year from the Plymouth Community Fund.

I do not understand why our organization, which has served the community so steadfastly and entertained so many thousands of people throughout the years, cannot also receive community support.

C.C. ALEXANDER, D.O.
Plymouth

Candy Salesmen Are Stuffing Her

EDITOR:

I am a resident of Lake Pointe and would like to comment about all the candy salesmen at our door recently, every one of them supporting a worthy cause.

Each one comes to the door hoping that he or she will make a sale, and all they get is "No thank-you, dear, I couldn't possibly use another box of candy."

In order that these boys and girls may learn something of value from each selling experience, perhaps the different groups, clubs or whatever could space their time of selling a little bit or maybe each group could even sell something a little different.

Please don't misunderstand — I'm all in favor of supporting these groups (and we do) but my question is how much candy can one family use?

Right now, we probably have more candy on hand than a candy store and the kids can't eat it because the dentist says "No, No!" and Mother and Dad can't eat it as we would just have to die later to get rid of it!

Perhaps you could put in a word to the right people so that these boys and girls don't get the feeling that they're a "failure at selling" when it really isn't their fault at all.

STUFFED WITH CANDY

In Ethiopia

YEOMAN SEAMAN Richard N. Vida, USN, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Vida of 3712 Alvin St., Garden City, is serving at the U.S. Naval Communication State, Asmara, Ethiopia.

The station provides communications to ships of the U.S. Navy operating in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean area.

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LOW CAL NEUFCHATEL Borden's Cream Cheese 24¢ <small>8 OZ. WT. PKG.</small>	GRADE 1 SKINLESS Mr. Pitts Franks 88¢ <small>2 LB. PKG.</small>	INDIAN TRAIL OR TOWN PRIDE Whole or Strained Cranberry Sauce 18¢ <small>1 LB. CAN</small>
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