

Building In Livonia Sets New Record

Home construction in Livonia in 1953 nearly matched the combined total of the two previous years.

The 102 building permits issued during December brought 1953's total to 1,554 — only 165 less than the two-year total for 1951 and 1952.

Figures released this week by Donald Wilson, Livonia's chief building inspector, show that 1953's new homes are valued at almost \$15 million.

The 649 new homes constructed in 1951 were valued at about \$6.5 million. In 1952 the 965 homes were worth approximately \$9.5 million.

Livonia's steady growth is also reflected by the 84 permits for commercial buildings issued during 1953. The largest commercial permit was for a \$107,000 supermarket that will be constructed on Grand River in the northeast corner of the city.

Largest of all new structures started in 1953, however, is a huge Chevrolet spring and bumper plant going up on a 120-acre site at Ambler and Eckles Roads.

Construction also began last year on a \$287,000 Bell Telephone central exchange building and a \$318,000 junior high school.

When completed, the telephone building will house dialing equipment valued at over \$2 million. The junior high school, an addition to Bentley High will contain 12 classrooms.

When we're young, friends are like everything else, a matter of course. In the old days we knew what it means to have them.

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Jones Reporting:

Air Spotters Undergo Tense Time As Airliner Makes Landing Pass

Like I said before there's a shortage of Americans in the "Air Spotting Business."

George and I got to the Post at about ten minutes to three in the morning and it was closed.

George comes from further away than I, but he's always there — kicks me awake whenever necessary — and is mainly responsible for letting me know that the airplanes did not fire-dies that I'm supposed to call into the Editor Center.

Incredulously and immediately off to the south and perhaps fourteen miles away we are fascinated by a brilliant white light, low in the sky, and moving slowly toward us.

George said, "It's a blimp," and I, while reaching for the phone, said, "No, but maybe it's a Whitebird," but the important factor yet holds — it's getting brighter and lower and coming toward us.

Over the phone came the "go-ahead" from the Editor Center, and I said "You'll have to hold a moment, I don't know what I'm talking about," and then suffered the anguish of one who suspects that perhaps he has just been misinterpreted.

Holding the phone we watched while the thing kept coming brighter and lower and closer, and is now about five miles away and eight hundred feet up. I don't know what it is and George isn't talking.

The highway beneath our observation tower is under repair and the intermittent lights of warning flares give us an accurate bearing upon what-over it is that we're looking at.

The light is now dazzling, is less than a mile away and about three hundred feet up and we do now suddenly realize what it is.

An airliner has mistaken the highway flares for the lights of a landing strip, and with its landing lights on is coming in. Below are utility poles, trees, ditches, and sleeping families.

What the impact of this knowledge (here comes a living of motor group, the plane appears to lumber for an instant, and then feeling the bite of its power slowly begins to rise. Yet, "reaching" and "lifting" hard over our tower it comes to the windows rattled and things began to vibrate upon our desks, and as we turned north-westward to watch the backwash created by noticeable pressure.

George was talking, and I over the phone said, "It was a plane, landing lights on, coming in for a mistaken landing — and there then came to my waiting ear the voice of the Editor Center, to quote, "You are of course stationed at an airport," and here all the time I'd expected to hear "Did-I duck?"

The Editor Center is a helpful outfit, whenever you're positive (never) wrong, they're always ready with prompt analytical assistance.

Well, by now this plane with landing lights yet on had high-tailed out of our area, and so George and I are back in business again, just standing there and looking around the skies.

Eastward and a little to the north is the soft night-time halo from the lights of a small city, and northward and a little to the east is the heavy, pillaged reflection from the area of large population.

These early morning evidences of "seeing" thousands make our sense of the skies seem rather comfortable, for we think they are safely proportion to the capacity of the Military and the alertness of the Ground Observer Corps.

Next week I'll try to tell you something of how you should live your home a right near a 24-hour Ground Observer Corps Post — it will be entitled "People who live in glass houses should pull down the shades."

Outstanding Historian Now Teaching At MSC

One of America's outstanding historians, Prof. Carlton J. H. Hayes of Columbia University, has been selected visiting Distinguished Professor in the School of Science and Arts at Michigan State College during the current winter term.

Known as a great teacher and the author of more than 30 books, Dr. Hayes is professor emeritus at Columbia. During his residence at MSC, he will teach a graduate course in history, "A Survey of Modern Nationalism." He also will give a number of public lectures and will be available for conferences and informal gatherings.

Hayes served as U. S. war-time ambassador to Spain in 1952.

U. S. bituminous coal miners in 1953 earned approximately \$4,000 per year.

STUDENTS PLAN OPERA PROGRAM AT CRANBROOK

"Let's Make An Opera", by contemporary British composer Benjamin Britten, has been selected by the Junior and senior class club of Kingswood School Cranbrook for public presentation February 19 and 20 in the school auditorium.

Originally written to be sung by children under 15, the story is set in an English nursery of the 1800's. The first two of three acts deals with preparations for an opera, and the last act is a simulated dress rehearsal.

An unusual feature of the presentation is that the choral group will be seated among the spectators, and the audience is intended to take part in singing some of the numbers.

Mr. Britten has arranged an accompaniment consisting of percussion and two pianists playing a single instrument.

Written in English to "modern" style music, the opera was first performed in 1951 in England, and has since been given in Boston and Cleveland.

Pfc. Donald J. Whalen Finishes School In Korea

Army Pfc. Donald J. Whalen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Whalen of 31000 Fargo, recently graduated from the 1 Corps Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in Korea.

During the four-week course, carefully selected soldiers are taught leadership and command, tactics and general military subjects to prepare them for key positions in their units.

Pfc. Whalen, who arrived in Korea last June, has returned to his job as a radar operator with Headquarters Battery of the 24th Division's 5th Field Artillery Battalion.

He joined the Army in November, 1952, and completed his basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Friendship must be accompanied by virtue, and always lodged in great and generous minds.

John Clappison Sells Insurance

Former Clarenceville Student Serving On USS Toledo

Serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS TOLEDO, a ship with a record of 10 months in action against the Reds, is Sidney J. Heemer, seaman, USS, son of Mrs. Lydia Heemer of 21207 Parker.

Heemer, who attended Clarenceville High School, entered the Navy service January 4, 1952.

Now on her third tour in the Korean theater, the Toledo has fired over 29,000 rounds of heavy-caliber ammunition in support of

United Nations operations. She was the first vessel to fire eight-inch guns against the Communists in Korea.

For duty aboard her, the crew is eligible for the National Defense Korean Service and United Nations ribbons.

Alaska's largest bituminous coal industry produced about 1,000 tons per day and has increased output 35% in the last two years.

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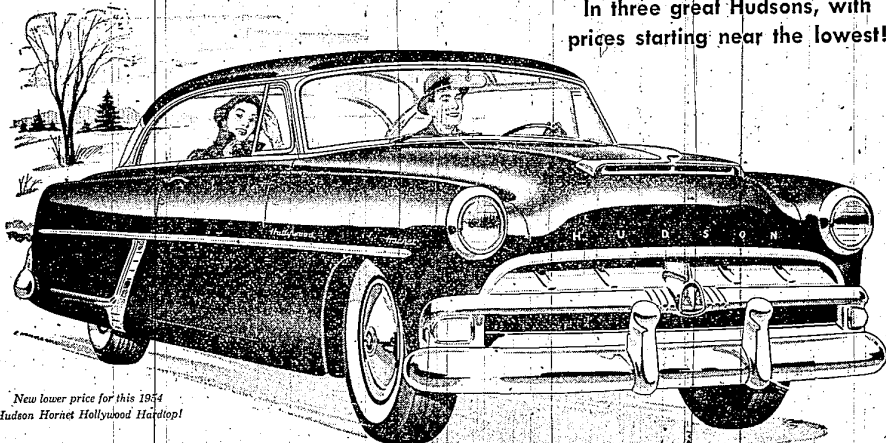
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