

C&O Railroad Asks to Halt Two Suburban Trains

Hearings will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 21 to determine whether the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad will be permitted to discontinue two trains which run between Detroit and Grand Rapids, via Redford Township, Livonia, Plymouth and Lansing.

Many residents of this suburban area use the trains, which stop in Plymouth and are protesting the proposed action. So are residents and public officials of Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

Chairman Peter Spivak of the Michigan Public Service Commission, (the body which will hold the hearing and make the decision) also has let it be known that he is distressed with C&O's request.

Spivak's formal announcement of the special hearing in Lansing said it was being held—

... for the purpose of ascertaining if:

"1. There is a demand for the continuation of Trains 14 and 15.

"2. Trains 14 and 15 serve the least need to the traveling public along this route as evidenced by passenger usage figures.

"3. The Chesapeake & Ohio has attempted to stimulate and develop its passenger service in recent years.

"4. An upward or downward revision of fare schedules would produce an increase in net revenue.

"5. The present schedule of Detroit to Grand Rapids trains discourages patronage.

"6. The opening of 1968 is affecting the traffic potential for passenger service between Detroit and Grand Rapids.

"7. The recent passenger trend indicates an impending stabilization of patronage.

"8. Trains 14 and 15 are netting the Chesapeake & Ohio the least amount of revenue of the passenger trains operating between Detroit and Grand Rapids.

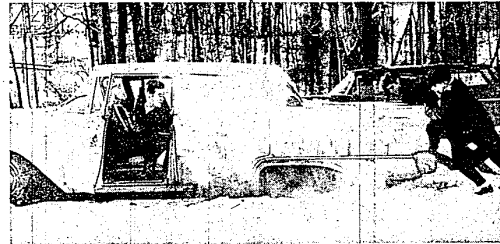
"9. Savings of \$70,000 will be realized by the Chesapeake & Ohio if Trains 14 and 15 are discontinued.

"10. The Chesapeake & Ohio on its overall Michigan operations, especially from the Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids areas to warrant retention of these trains.

Winter Arrives in The Suburbs



WINTRY BLASTS arrived on the suburban scene last week—but they brought their bright side with them, too. This picturesque scene was shot by Observer photographer Gerry Gazda in Livonia near Haggerty Road and Schoolcraft and was duplicated throughout the countryside in this area. The weatherman predicts a few more days of the chill.



SPINNING WHEELS ON snowtuck automobiles were common sight as the season's first big snowstorm hit the suburbs last week. Helping motorist Phil Sutton maneuver his auto out of a field in Edgewood and Hines Park Sunday.

Wm. Coughlin Named Aide By Farnum

Congressman-Elect Billie S. Farnum today announced appointment of a veteran newsman, William J. Coughlin, as his executive aide. Coughlin has been at Detroit Free Press Planning Editor to direct Farnum's Washington staff.

"Bill Coughlin, has unusual qualifications for helping me serve the people of the 19th Congressional District in a variety of needed ways," Farnum said. "I intend to see that he gets an opportunity to use each facet of his experience for their benefit."

Farnum's district covers Pontiac, western Oakland County, including Farmington, Livonia, Northville and Redford Township.

Coughlin, whose Free Press posts included those of Sunday Editor and Associate Editor, has also been a radio writer, program moderator and broadcaster. He has been a Wayne University lecturer and special instructor since 1946.

Said Congressman-Elect Farnum:

"A big part of the job of today's Congressman is to match the needs of his district with the legitimate means for action afforded by the Federal Government. Bill Coughlin's ability to ferret out pertinent facts should prove invaluable in helping me match needs to benefits for householders, farmers, businessmen, retirees and everyone else."

"I am particularly happy that he talks the language of the professional educator. Helping you to help yourself through advanced training is high on my list of priorities, and Bill Coughlin's background will help in hardening down practical measures."

"His tax and financial background which won him United States Treasury citations on two occasions—should also prove to be of great benefit in formulating practical programs in these fields."

"With Bill Coughlin heading my staff I feel certain that my job of serving the needs of people of the 19th District will be much easier to accomplish."

Holiday Gymnasts

Mr. Charles Thompson, Junior High School Physical Education Teacher, and members of the Clintonville High School Team performed at Ford Auditorium on Saturday, December 2, in the benefit Christmas Show sponsored by the Wayne County Road Commission. Proceeds from this show will go toward an improved Christmas for many children in Wayne County.

Residents Give Quiet Approval to Route of Jeffries Expressway

How do suburban residents react to the new Jeffries Freeway?

Judging by their polite approval at last week's public hearing for the suburban link in the expressway, restrained approval might be the best words to describe it.

Following Tuesday's hearing, Observer reporters Dave Elsie and Sue Shaughnessy quizzed several local residents on their reaction.

"From about 700 persons at the hearing, here are a few random comments:

Mary Omer, 37478 Schoolcraft, said, "I don't have many strong comments one way or the other. I'm satisfied, although my property is very close to the new highway."

Mrs. M. Jones, 13590 Marion, stated, "I think it will be a good thing in the future. I'll affect some people's home valuation, but we need more highways with the increase in cars and traffic. I live in the first next to what will be a service drive."

"Two Livonians who'll lose their home, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Heavist, 23465 Schoolcraft, said, "It can't come soon enough. Although we stand to take a licking, we've stopped fighting. We want to go somewhere with a hammer and nails' and start over right."

"The man who made the presentation was a fine speaker," said Mrs. Harold Martin, 13537 Berwyn, Redford Township. "He knows what he's talking about and is calm and reassuring. We've lived here for 18 years, but we're not unhappy. We must be able to make adjustments."

Mrs. Helen Jeter, 15344 Mercedes, said, "My home is not affected, but we're all wondering how close we'll be to the freeway. It was a very thorough presentation."

Madonna Group Adds \$1500 To Building Fund

Madonna College Parents Association made a generous contribution of \$1,500 to the building fund for their Christmas Gift for 1964.

Frederick Steinte, president of the association made the presentation to Sister Mary Ray, C.S.P., president of Madonna College at a meeting on Sunday, Dec. 27. Expressing her gratitude Sister Ray, commented, "There is truly something divine in this gift; first, because it is given at a sacrifice of time, talent, second, because it is given for a good cause, the education of women who will be formed and trained for service to mankind. In this way you also have a share in building not only the physical but also intellectual structure, in which these young women, mothers of tomorrow, will be educated and molded."

The greater part of the gift was the proceeds from the pre-Thanksgiving Feather Party held on Nov. 14 of which Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gahrys were chairman.

Tony Spina, photographer for the Detroit Free Press was featured as the guest speaker for the evening meeting. Mr. Spina presented slides of the Vatican and accompanied them with comments on the experiences. The slides included picturesque views of Rome and the Vatican, candid shots of the late Holy Father, John XXIII, many of Pope VI. The slide lecture concluded with many pictures of the late President Kennedy which Mr. Spina has incorporated into his recently published book, This was the President.

its present passenger service.

"11. Trains 19 and 20 are, in fact, passenger trains. (Train 19 leaves Detroit at 11:40 p.m. and arrives in Grand Rapids at 2:55 a.m. Train 20 leaves Grand Rapids at 11:10 p.m. and arrives in Detroit at 2:20 a.m.)

"12. There are any other factors which may have a bearing on this matter.

"IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company appear at said hearing fully prepared to present evidence and testimony concerning the matter in order that the Commission can have full and complete information upon which to base appropriate action."

"IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that at the hearing any other interested parties be prepared to present evidence and testimony concerning the issues in this matter."

If this request is granted two C&O trains will serve the area six days a week and one train on Sunday. The two remaining trains will stop in Plymouth en route to Detroit at 8:59 a.m. daily except Sunday and 5:55 p.m., enroute to Grand Rapids seven days a week.

Suburban Post Offices Add Extra Hours for Pre-Christmas Rush

With Christmas mail expected to hit an all-time record in the suburbs, post offices in Redford Township, Livonia, Plymouth and Farmington were gearing for the rush with extra hours and special services this week.

All six post offices (two each in Livonia and Redford Township) have announced increased hours between now and Christmas.

Public co-operation is one important reason that post offices around the country are able to handle the huge, seasonal mountain of mail, local postmasters report.

"Without the assistance of the public, we'd be in a jam. People who shop early and get their cards and parcels into the mails early make it possible for the holiday mail to be delivered on time," said Art Jenkins, Livonia Postmaster.

All four community postmasters urged residents to use ZIP codes which, they said, help handle mails faster because of a new transportation and distribution setup. ZIP codes, they said, also help clerks to identify receiving post offices when addresses are hard to read. "During this time of the year," they added, "the faster mail is processed the better chance it has to make connections with outgoing trains, planes and trucks."

Special holiday hours which the four postoffices will observe are as follows:

LIVONIA (Both Stations) - Sunday, Dec. 12-6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Fri., Dec. 14-15-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Redford Township (Both Stations) - Sunday, Dec. 12-12 noon to 4 p.m. Monday-Fri., Dec. 14-15-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PLYMOUTH - Sunday, Dec. 12-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Fri., Dec. 14-15-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Redford Township (Both Stations) - Sunday, Dec. 12-12 noon to 4 p.m. Monday-Fri., Dec. 14-15-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FARMINGTON - Sunday, Dec. 12-8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Fri., Dec. 14-15-8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Area Jaycees Halfway to Swimming Pool Goal

District Six Jaycees announced at a recent progress meeting that they have reached the halfway mark in their campaign to raise \$10,000 to build a recreational and therapeutic swimming pool for the retarded children of the Plymouth State Home.

Response to the campaign has been rewarding. Many local organizations and members of the general public have pledged financial support. For example, the Senior Citizens of Livonia have pledged \$100.

Co-chairman Ralph Mossman stated that the Livonia Jaycees are working very hard appearing before service organizations explaining the great need of this project and soliciting their assistance in making this drive successful. Any group wishing additional information can call Dave Johnson at GA 5-0088 and arrange for a Jaycee speaker who will appear before them and explain the Candlelight Ball and the purpose behind it.

The Candlelight Ball is a New Years Eve party to be held at Carpenters Hall on Grand River. The theme of the ball is brightening their future. Tickets for the ball are \$12 for general admission, \$30 for patron tickets, and \$100 for plaque tickets. Entitling donors name to be on a bronze plaque at the pool site.

Anyone wishing a ticket should contact Floyd Jarvi at GA 1-8171. Those wishing to help through donations should send it to Jaycee Candlelight Ball, 8359 Virginia, Livonia, 48150.

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MSU Students Need Housing In Local Area

Living quarters for student teachers in Livonia, Redford Township, Farmington and Plymouth are being urgently sought by the Michigan State University coordinator in this area.

Rooms or apartments are needed for the students from January 4 to March 19. Information may be sent to D. Triplett, 28350 Ann Arbor Trail, Garden City.

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