

Editorial Page

The Water Problem . . .

It is becoming more real every year in this portion of the state. Fact is, we are beginning to wonder a little how much longer the City of Detroit will be able to supply water to all comers. The City is having some financial problems, and there might exist a possibility it could not afford to continue to expand its facilities indefinitely, creating a water shortage for all of us. Undoubtedly the system pretty much pays its own way, but even so, we wonder.

The question is brought about by action of Center Line voters who last week approved a \$345,000 pipeline project which will make it the 47th suburb to depend on Detroit for water.

Farmington City has used Detroit water some time, and the so-called "dry area" in south and southeastern portions of the township will probably soon use it.

Shallow wells in the township are not always satisfactory on several counts, including health. The rapid growth in population is undoubtedly lowering more and more the underground water table.

With large water and sewer systems already past the planning stage in Farmington Township, we are taking a big step to assure continued growth, as has been predicted all along. We may as well make up our minds that when these are completed (maybe even before) there will be more of the same.

Hospital Insurance . . .

costs can be trimmed, and don't let anyone tell you they can't! These increasing insurance costs are worrying both the companies and the policyholders. A few companies have done something about it, we're happy to report, but more certainly can be done.

At least half the companies, including Blue Cross, have upped premiums in the last year or two. Others undoubtedly will soon.

Three suggestions for cutting costs occur to us:

1. Broaden the rules so that more patients could be treated in the doctor's office, or at home (even though most doctors won't make home calls any more). Now, too many people are booked into a hospital because that's the only place where their insurance is in effect.

2. Eliminate insurance for maternity cases. Paying insurance flaunts the rule for sound insurance—that a policyholder must not be able to plan to have a claim. In other words, you can't buy fire insurance and then touch off your house; you can't buy car insurance and deliberately smash up your car. About the first thing newly-married couples buy is Blue Cross—and they buy it because, their first three or four years' premiums won't cost them a dime if they have a baby.

3. Set a deductible amount—the same as for car insurance. Let the policyholder pay the first \$50, say, of the hospital bill and hypochondriacs would be thinned out. At the same time, a \$50 bill would not upset a family budget too badly for those who had to go to the hospital.

A few insurance companies now have policies where the insured shares part of the cost. We have one, and are happy with it.

As long as we continue under the present rules, hospital insurance will keep going up. It would be a shame for this great benefit to price itself out of the poor man's reach.

WEEKLY CHUCKLE: Trying to sell a housewife a home freezer, a salesman pointed out, "You can save enough on your food bills to pay for it."

"Yes, I know," the woman agreed, "but, you see, we're paying for our car on the carfare we save. Then, we're paying for our washing machine on the laundry bills we save, and we're paying for the house on the rent we're saving. We just can't afford to save any more right now."

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

LIVONIA — A proposition where Livonia and Redford Township would join to build an incinerator plant for garbage disposal has been formally advanced to the Livonia City Council.

The proposal made by Councilman Peter Ventura was for a joint land fill site to be used by the two governmental units until such time as the incinerator could be completed. His recommendation was that Livonia purchase this site in Livonia and charge Redford for the use of it.

Ventura's recommendation called for Livonia itself to pick up waste as Redford does and suggested a refuse collection fee of \$1.25 per resident. This would save the residents of Livonia \$6 per year over the rates proposed by the existing commercial refuse collectors. As of recently, the latter has made a request for an increase in its fees to \$1.75 per month.

Could he be agreed to make a further study of the proposal. —The Livonian

SOUTHFIELD — The Evergreen Interceptor, in the talking stages for almost six years, looms as a possibility for the very near future.

Financing of the interceptor, estimated to cost close to \$3 million, was made more compatible with community ability to pay when the county was given the authority to pledge its faith and credit against the necessary bond issue.

Outlining a plan similar in effect to the one for the Farmington Interceptor before the Township Board, Harold K. Schone, county DPW head, said that his department could, with community co-operation, place the Evergreen plans before the County Board of Supervisors at its February meeting.

Schone said that little delay in starting work following approval would be necessary and estimated that the construction work could be completed in 18 months from the starting time.

A resolution presented by Schone, if approved by the Township Board, would place a \$200 intercepter connection charge fee against each new home on issuance of a permit. As spelled out, existing home owners tying into the intercepter would, at the discretion of the Township Board, be able to pay the \$200 over a period of 10 years. —The Four Corners Press

BIRMINGHAM — Last year wasn't as good a year for building as 1956.

The building department's annual report shows both the location and number of building permits issued for all types of construction in 1957 fell well below the 1956 level.

The valuation of 500 permits issued by the city in 1957 was \$3,907,097. In 1956 the valuation of 607 building permits was \$4,914,370. Permits for only 37 new single family residences were issued in the City of Birmingham in 1957. —The Birmingham Centric

NOVI — The Novi Board of Commerce, at the recommendation of Township Supervisor Frazier Stankin, agreed last week to invite State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie to its next regular meeting for the purpose of hearing complaints and answering questions concerning the new Farmington expressway and its effects on Novi.

The plan is to have the meeting held open to the public and to arrange as many as possible to attend. —The Wayne Dispatch

WAYNE — It has been announced that a fee of 25 cents will be charged at certain times for those using the township's new ice skating rink on Ford Road just east of Wayne Road.

The fee will be charged on Sundays from 12 noon until 10 p.m., and on weekdays from 7 to 10 p.m. Although no fees will be charged on Saturday, officials said, the rink will be in use by recreation league hockey teams from 7 to 11 a.m. and from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Skating between these league game times will be permitted free as will skating in the evening. —The Wayne Dispatch

BLOOMFIELD — The township board has voted to block two roads around the high school. Township supervisor Arno Hulet said that the roads were used by more people than any others in the township pointing out the fact that there are 1,200 students at the school and that many parents call for and deliver their children.

The board voted to pay \$4,500 for the job. A similar amount will be given by the state. The work will be done by Oakland County. —The Birmingham Centric

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The Michigan Multiple Sclerosis Society is conducting a research and diagnostic treatment facilities are provided for the entire state. A branch unit is operated in Battle Creek.

of Michigan United Fund

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

G.O.P. Going All-Out to Unseat Governor Williams; Seek Candidate

REPUBLICANS ARE LOOKING for a candidate seven months before they try again to wrest the state's top office from the Democrats.

Many will come but only one will be chosen. The party is working on its "new look" as 1958 gets underway—setting up a \$228,700 budget and getting issues organized for the campaign.

They believe Gov. Williams, five terms in office and expected to try for a sixth, is in a more vulnerable spot than at any time in his history-making career in Michigan politics.

Democrats, remembering the landladies, cannot be budged from their confidence in Williams, who brought the party off the back streets and peopled state government from top to near bottom with the party faithful.

Every appointive office is held by Democrats, all administrative offices are in their hands. The last bastion of Republicanism — the legislature — is the party's next major target.

There has been an almost complete turnover since Williams, appointed by a Republican governor, was a member of the liquor control commission, made his debut in 1948 with a victory.

He was the only Democrat at the inaugural January 1, 1949.

Now, Republicans claim they are reviving in their party the same spirit Democrats brought into their first 10 years of political domination.

Republicans have a budget for next year and an organization—built from the ground up in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

They will pay state chairman Lawrence L. Lindemer \$21,000 this

LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Benson
DIRECTOR - NATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE, INC.
DESIGNER, ANN ARBOR, MICH.

Glenn Green continues his disputes with Europe. —G.S.B.

ON A YUGOSLAVIAN FARM

PANCHEVAKI HIT, YUGOSLAVIA — Dear Dr. Benson: This collective farm, second largest in Communist Yugoslavia, is one of the agricultural show places in Tito's domain. Its 42,500 acres are spread across a rich blackland delta between the Danube and the Tamiš rivers about 15 miles east of Belgrade. The larger part of my second day in Yugoslavia has been spent on this big farm, interviewing Director General Peter Zecovic and touring various units of the operation.

There are 2,100 people permanently settled on the farm, according to Zecovic. Several hundred seasonal workers join them from time to time. The major products are milk, pork, vegetables and grains. Almost without exception the products are distributed unprocessed, milk moves into Belgrade in 20-gallon tin drums. Quantities go to government-operated hospitals and the rest to government-operated stores and markets. The major products are handled as fresh produce. Corn and wheat are sacked but not processed.

Living in Cow Barns

In the modern, sparsely offices at the big collective's management center, Zecovic and his chief agronomist, Miroslav Trifunovic explained that plants are under construction to process some of the vegetables, to process and bottle the milk. I was not shown these plants under construction. However, there is some first-step processing done at the center. They said milk machines are being installed. I saw cows being milked only by hand. They said the farm had a dairy herd of 2,058 Holsteins and Danish Reds. I saw only about 100 head of each breed. I saw a row of imposing white stucco barns sufficient to house 2,000 cows, but I saw only one of these barns (and at another place, a shed) occupied by cows.

While we were in this dairy area (the doors of two of the barns were opened (definitely unscheduled) and out walked a number of unkempt, poorly dressed peasant farm workers. Everything about these people reflected deepest poverty. I looked through the open (Continued on Page 5B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Back to Town Hall

After seven years of voting at the Bond School, residents of Precinct 1 in the township will again be casting their ballots at the Town Hall when election time rolls around, March 6. The transfer of polling places from the township was made possible by an amendment carried by voters at the last election. The amendment permits the voting of township residents in a city if the township hall was located there before the area was incorporated as a city. Many citizens in the western part of the township stated that they will welcome the change as the long distance they had to travel to vote at the Bond School in the past was an extreme inconvenience.

TEN YEARS AGO (January 22, 1948)

Water Complaints

A large group of residents in the Clarenceville area attended the Township Board meeting Tuesday to complain regarding the water department service in the township. In some instances, they reported, statements were rendered showing past due balances when the account was not in arrears. Others reported instances where services were connected and had been for some time and yet no water meters had been installed. The residents also reported that undue hazardous conditions were being created at the intersection of St. Francis Street and Eight Mile Road because of cars parked at right angles there.

Special concern was expressed for the large number of children who by necessity congregate there in the morning, at noon, and in the late afternoon after school is out. Supervisor Blanchard stated that this was a matter that could only be rectified by the Oakland County Road Commission but indicated that he would bring it to that department's attention.

FIVE YEARS AGO (January 22, 1953)

Planning Commission

The City Council unanimously approved a motion Monday night calling for the establishment of a planning commission for the city to go into effect February 2. Under provisions of the ordinance, the mayor and the city manager are automatic members, with seven others being appointed by the council. The Council named James Cavanaugh as its representative on the body and selected Bayard Tupper as the Zoning Appeal Board representative. Other citizens selected were: Roy Fendt, Frank Nichols, V. O. Bates, James Tagg and Louis Nolan.



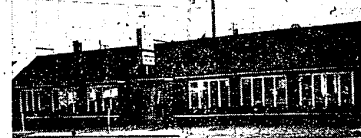
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