

Island in a Changing World?

Our suburbs are in a bustling mood today. It's the heart of Michigan Week. Mayors are exchanging, industrialists are dining, there are pageants, Open Houses, balls, and groundbreakings. All are celebrating and crowding about our suburbs' tremendous growth.

And it's a valid celebration. The phenomenal sprouting of the suburbs is graphically detailed in the latest report of the Metropolitan Detroit Regional Planning Commission.

In the past four years, the study shows, suburban population has risen by 225,000 in the tri-county area. And, in the same period, the number of people within Detroit's city limits has declined by 52,144.

The Observer salutes suburbia's growth. Despite our growing pains, the suburbs, with few exceptions, are learning to plan and build communities with good zoning, wide streets, open spaces and fine schools. In most areas, the crowded living patterns of the inner city are serving as a lesson in how-to-plan a community. Our colleagues, Bill Gail, and our cartoonist, Frank McGuire, take note of Michigan's positive accomplishments in these areas elsewhere on today's Editorial Page.

But not everything in suburbia is growing with the same spirit nor at the same pace. There is an important aspect of human development that is missing in the suburbs, and Michigan Week can well illustrate it.

"Spiritual Foundations Day," which inaugurates this special Week Sunday was observed by and large throughout suburbia, in lively white churches.

"Industrial Day" is being observed today in our industrial plants where thousands of Negroes find jobs — but who then become reverse commuters at the end of the day because they can't find a place nearby to live.

"Tomorrow," "Education Day," will be marked with lessons in "democracy" in our largely all-white schools.

And, on Friday, "Heritage Day" will attempt to instill, among other things, the spirit of the American Dream, of brotherhood, in a metropolitan area where the "melting pot" is cooking slowly, if at all.

For the great population shifts reported by the Regional Institute are shifts toward further isolation and segregation. The 225,000 newcomers to the suburbs, the 52,144 who have left Detroit — are almost entirely white; while those remaining in the inner city are almost exclusively Negroes.

The point is obvious to many of us: there is a great wall being erected around those minority groups who are seeking equal opportunities in housing.

Less obvious is the harm that we in the suburbs, especially our children, are being subjected to.

Robert Eddy, a Farmington minister, expressed the problem writing in these pages. Last month, "This racial isolation (in the suburbs) makes my children subject to a pernicious disease: prejudice. For no matter how much I talk to them of the virtues of integration, their 'we' will always be white. There just aren't any Negroes around to keep that unconscious assumption of whiteness from entering into their definition of 'we'."

When Negroes do make their appearances

Our Week

- Walt Whitman proclaims "I Hear America Singing" and I proclaim "I Hear Michigan Singing" — Michigan — dynamic in world progress.
- This is what Michigan Week means to me:
 - A chance to puff my chest out like our symbolic robin redbreast.
 - An opportunity to brag a little about this wonderful state, replete with rocks and rills and plenty of water.
 - A moment to pause and reflect that I, citi-
- zen, am trying to do my bit to make this a better world for me and you, that our state can play a big part — and
- A week in which to gaze at all the ships at sea, the jets at air, and the eggs in motion, sending products — and people — to all parts of the world where they can read: "Made in Metropolitan, Mich., U.S.A."
- Michigan, of thee I sing!

BILL GAIL

Fresh Air In Livonia

Charles Pinto returned to City Hall this week to find the Livonia Council tackling the new Master Zoning Ordinance which he authored two years ago.

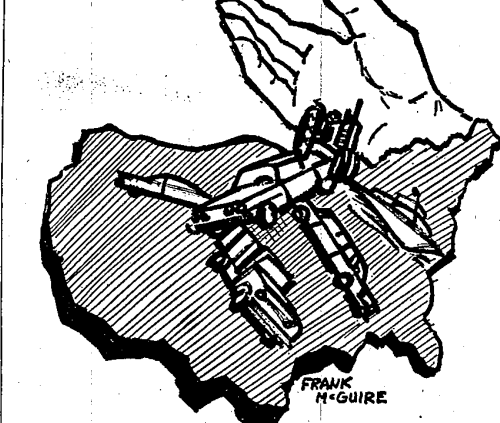
No coincidence, this.

That one of the new Councilman's first votes will be on this piece of legislation which was drafted as city attorney in 1962 is an indication of his many long-lived civic contributions.

These contributions — made during seven years of work in Livonia's legal office — have grown to be strong building blocks of the community.

—DAVE ELSILA

From Michigan's Hand to All the Nation



THE READER SPEAKS UP:

Homesick New Yorker Likes Plymouth

Editor: I am a new resident in Livonia. I want to thank your paper for discovering the wonderful world of Plymouth. I am from a small town in New York State and frankly have been homesick for a place just like Plymouth. The shopping area is just wonderful. We are a one car family and so my husband dropped me off there in the morning with a friend and we had the nicest day shopping and browsing.

I wanted to pay a special tribute to the way we were treated at the Mayflower Hotel where we had lunch. I asked about the community from the hostess and she took us on a tour of the facilities, including telling us about the paintings in the dining room. I am so glad this is so close to my home in Burton Hollow in Livonia and we were made so welcome in this friendly community everywhere we went.

I was going to write a letter to your Chamber of Commerce telling them how hospitable their business people are but decided to write to you folks instead because I was drawn to Plymouth from reading about it in your Livonia Observer.

MRS. R. BENNETT, Livonia.

Action Demanded From Livonia Mayor
Editor: Open Letter to Honorable Stanley Moelke, Mayor of Livonia.

The people directly connected with this drain ditch called the Patter Drain designated No. 11 would like you to give us a definite date when we can expect the construction of this project to begin, give or take a month. The word SOON is not specific and you know it.

Our reasons for this request are as follows:

1. The City Council stated that it is necessary to construct and enclose the Patter Drain AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BACK IN MARCH, 1961.
2. After two years of waiting some men representing themselves as City officials had us sign a construction release for the purpose of construction of "THE CONTRACTOR WOULD BE READY TO START IN 30 DAYS." This release was signed in July, 1963 — NO CONSTRUCTION STARTED.
3. One year later about June, 1964, another person representing the City came along AGAIN REPEATED THE STORY SAYING CONSTRUCTION WAS ABOUT TO START IN LATE JUNE OR JULY OF 1964 — STILL NO CONSTRUCTION STARTED.
4. In October of 1964 Mr. Strasser stated that the PROJECT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. He was sure. NO CONSTRUCTION STARTED.
5. Again in February, 1965, at the City Engineering Office, we were told, "IT'S JUST THE CONTRACT. THE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET. THE CONTRACTOR IS WAITING FOR THE FROST TO GET OUT OF THE GROUND." Now it is May into May, the frost has been out of the ground for a good 24 months and STILL NO CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON THE PATER DRAIN NO. 11.

Now Mr. Mayor you say SOON!

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Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

A chamber of commerce, as far as I am concerned, has always been "they" and not "we." The lack of self-identification has probably been deliberate on my part. "They" always seem so make-bury and who needs it?

Two things happened in Livonia last week to shake up my thinking machine. One—Gene and Christie Edmondson whirled into Livonia from California to give a sick chamber of commerce a shot in the arm—no, not a shot, but a dose of smelling salts.

Aside from these sick chamber doctors, I had occasion to talk to Lincoln PTA on the subject of Livonia's future—how will you help determine it?

If a person isn't willing to do the things he is urging others to do, he is a coward.

The future of any community is based on many people making a decision somewhere along the line. Not just to be interested themselves, but to "sell" their positive ideas to others, to participate, to build, to be unified, to work toward a common goal.

"That's just what the 'Keep Pace With Tomorrow' program is," says chamber manager Phil Tanquary.

There are active Chambers of Commerce all around Livonia—Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City—and no one works harder than Elmer Hazelton in Redford Township.

It's time NOW, when Livonia is right at the cross roads to either becoming "the hub of western Wayne County," or a pathway between Redford Township and Plymouth.

It's time right NOW for citizens, both of the business community and residents, to help promote, develop and unify the business, industrial and civic interests of Livonia.

If the "Keep Pace With Tomorrow" program is successful it will reflect itself positively in the community for all time to come.

Livonia is half grown—there is still a chance for it to develop into a strong community that will attract professional men, industry, good teachers, civic-minded citizens.

If Livonia's Chamber develops a broader base of membership through this program, which is being kicked off this Wednesday, and continues until June 10; then there is no reason in the world the Show Train idea for Livonia cannot develop into something all surrounding communities will enjoy, like Plymouth's Fall Festival Days that draws people from all surrounding communities.

The needed community center, the hockey rink, the additional park area—all can become realities to a community where the residents and the businessmen work together, and for that matter sometimes wear the same hat.

Everyone's success as a resident, businessman or professional depends on community development—a chamber is the spark plug of a community, working for its improvement constantly. So goes the Chamber—so goes the Community.

Like I said the time and (last) opportunity is NOW!

Yesterday's Headlines

- 25 YEARS AGO**
The Livonian for May 22, 1940, reported that beginning next week Livonia will have its first clean-up week. Citizens were asked to throw out all old rubbish and to clean up their yards.
- 20 YEARS AGO**
The May 23, 1945 Livonian printed a picture of the graduating class of Livonia's two schools, Livonia and Newburg. The exercises were held on Tuesday evening with the theme, "On Our Way."
- 15 YEARS AGO**
"After months of wrangling, politicking and, in some instances, a name calling, the climax to a rough campaign will be reached Tuesday, May 23, 1950, when an estimated 4,500 people will go to the polls to decide whether they want to start operating immediately as a city under a Mayor form of government or, by rejecting the charter, practically ordering the existing Charter Commission to set up a manager form of government." (Taken from the May 19, 1950 Livonian.)
- 8 YEARS AGO**
The Redford Observer for May 19, 1960, printed a picture of the new Redford Heights Post Office located on Woodworth south of Seven Mile. The office will open May 21 at 3 p.m. KERRY M. GUENTHER

ELECT ROSINA RAYMOND
College Student at Large
Vote May 24
Paid Political Act

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