

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Essex County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Townships of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

Just Chattin'

Yes, I Said Lottery

Several weeks ago one of our state legislators let it be known that he favored a state conducted lottery as a means of helping to pay for the building of schools, the education of our children and thus bring relief to the overburdened taxpayer.

It wasn't a new idea by any means. But the mere mention of a state conducted lottery caused considerable eyebrow lifting and many folks scoffed at the thought of it. Why?

What's wrong with the idea of a state conducted lottery?

Properly supervised, it could be the means of raising thousands of dollars. What's more, it would be a painless method of raising such funds as only those who wished to gamble would be footing the bill.

For years the Irish Sweepstakes have been popular in this country. Folks have been known to pull all sorts of strings just to purchase a ticket. And the state of New Hampshire, two years ago, sponsored a lottery that surpassed all expectations.

So, why not a lottery in Michigan? Of course, the professional dogooders will holler loud and long that it is wrong to finance education of our children with money derived from gambling. You'll hear them make all sorts of charges, such as the lowering of our moral standards, etc. But, strangely, these professional dogooders never have a substitute activity.

I still remember the walls of protest

The Threat

Last week in Plymouth a citizen, trying to get some action from the city, said he had only one alternative if his complaint were ignored — to sell to colored.

Do you suppose it is possible that some day the utmost in threats will be: If you fail me, I'll sell to whites.

BILL GAIL

W. W. ELLGAR

OMBUDSMAN



(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we tell you our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Ombudsman:

Please help! How can we get the County to post signs keeping these semis off Merriman Road?

They have Farmington and Middlebelt Roads to use — both of which are zoned commercial. We on Merriman Road are very much still a residential area, with small children to worry about.

If they won't keep these semis off, they should rezone us commercial and/or industrial, then, (and only then) could we afford to move to a safer place to raise our families.

Also, now that our City Council has approved equipping with radar to catch our speeders, how long will it be before the cars are equipped and officers trained to operate them? We are desperate. (If you don't believe how bad it is, just park near our corner, near Six Mile, and hear the noise when the semis pass, and the speed they travel. Our houses rattle and shake.) Also, the speed violators are running rampant from Eight Mile down. It's

not safe for any of us to even turn into our driveways. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Carpenter, Livonia

Dear Carpenters:

Sorry, Merriman Road is a class A road and everything on wheels can travel the road. Bids are in on the radar equipment for the two Livonia Scout cars. As soon as they are awarded by City Council they will be purchased and installed. Should be about one month from now. Policemen can be trained in the use of radar equipment in about an hour. Ombudsman observed three semis breaking the speed laws for the area mentioned in 45 minutes time and alerted Livonia's finest (police) to the speeder.

Dear Ombudsman:

As one of the Livonia non-teaching staff, I would like to know how the figures of 225 for and eight against votes were arrived at in the ratification vote for the three year contract that was ratified the 15th of June. According to the members attending the ratification meeting, the union representative who took the count only counted to 40 of the

standees on the yes vote and only counted to eight on the standees for the no votes. Everyone who attended this meeting knew there was a roll call passed around and signed by everyone, some of these members did not vote either way and some of them left before the vote was taken. We also understand there were only 233 members present at that meeting. Please, how do you arrive at these figures?

Why is there never a secret ballot at these meetings? Quite a number of us know the reasons for these actions but, would like to be informed officially.

Sincerely,

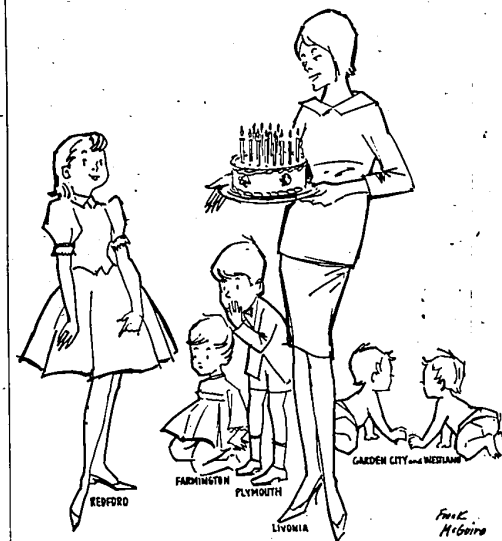
An Interested Party

According to A. J. Packebell,

president of the non-teaching staff Local 118 in Livonia School District, no secret ballot is necessary for ratification voting, only for election of officers. He quotes the Taft-Hartley act that says he is only required to count the "no" votes; and there can be no such action as "abstaining" all such votes are automatically counted "yes". His source of information is Council No. 20.

Redford Observer is 12 Years Old!

The Observer Newspapers Celebrate a Birthday!



Readers Speak Up

Inter-School Change Defended

Editors:

This is in support of the Livonia School Board and Stark School personnel who have been criticized by some for giving third and fifth grade students the opportunity to correspond with, and meet, students their own age in Plymouth and Detroit schools. I understand that this activity was associated with regular classroom work in which the children study different types of communities (cities, suburbs, etc.). This is no different than going to a museum, the zoo, or the Capitol in Lansing in connection with subjects being studied.

It appears that the major reason for opposition to the Stark School activity is that the children at the Detroit school were mostly Negro. If you think otherwise, ask yourself: would there have been the same opposition if the Detroit school had been replaced by a private one with children of well-to-do families? would there have been the same opposition if the Stark School children had corresponded with and visited the children of circus performers when they were in Detroit?

It has been stated that there is objection to the activity because Federal Funds may have been involved. Does this mean that any gymnastics which have been developed by the Armed Forces must not be used in schools? Or that scientific advances which have been developed with Federal Funds should not be used in schools?

In the July 13 issue of this paper, a letter writer objected to teaching about social questions in school. Should we stop teaching about the Constitution or the Gettysburg Address?

As the parent of a child attending Stark School, I find

it significant that no objection has been voiced by parents of children at the school. Perhaps what those in opposition are concerned about is that children might learn that others are like them regardless of community, color or creed.

HOWARD YOUNG
Livonia

Wants G.C. Charter.

Editor:

I have lived in Garden City over 25 years and have watched politicians come and go and issues come and go. The most important issue that has come up in Garden City since I've lived here is this new charter very badly, and I hope the people in Garden City will not listen to a small group that is passing literature out against the new charter. They are new people in town and supported by a small group of people.

Every corporation has a President and a Board of Directors so this is the same with the new charter. Dearborn, Heights has it and also the new City of Westland, and the cities of Dearborn and Livonia, why should Garden City go backwards?

I sincerely urge everyone in Garden City to vote yes on the new charter.

SPEED COTTAGE,
Garden City.

Too Little, Too Late

Editor:

I have just finished reading your article about Councilman Milligan attempting to stop horseback riders from using public thoroughfares. It seems that Milligan is a little late and a little early with his earth-shaking proposal.

A little late in that this has been a problem for some time. Now that a horse has been struck practically in his

front yard he is on the bandwagon; or rather started the bandwagon.

He is a little early in that he seems to have no idea as to how this ordinance can be made operative as shown by his answer that he will worry about the problems after the ordinance is passed.

This proposal reminds me of his idea to make a downtown area at Five Mile and Farmington Roads. He seems to have the attitude of do it now and solve the problems later.

I wonder if an ordinance would help concerning Farmington Road? If Councilman Milligan has ever noticed the condition of that road, even he may have to admit that it could easily be mistaken for a bridge path.

GEORGE K. McGRATH,
Livonia.

Taxes Too High in G.C.

Editor:

A Real Estate advertisement in a local paper is interesting and makes an important point. The elimination of a "blot" on the landscape of a city by replacing one house with two similar houses is called progress.

If Garden City is on the move — in the direction of future crowded conditions with no provision for block playgrounds — just for the sake of increasing tax revenue or making a quick profit on the sale of a house then it can not be called progress except for the promoters of the new developments who were here when the blots on the landscape were created.

The least they could do is build more spacious houses on larger tracts of land. We need a little more variety and elbow room.

STANLEY L. GLAMB,
Garden City

Observing The Scene

By MYRA CHANDLER

Politicians sometimes find out the more they are known the less they are loved.

Don't feel bad fellows, the same holds true with newspaper political writers. I can remember sitting at the Woman's desk turning out hearts and flowers and polyanthus platitudes each week brought me endearing notes and no enemies.

Switching to the political scene the mash notes have trickled down to my kids and cousins and the line forms to the left with the bows and arrows.

Expressing one's self in politics may have its frustrations, but not being able to tell your story is catastrophic. Particularly if you are one of a long list of lawyers running for a comparatively short list of judgeships.

There is not much opportunity to speak—and "name" candidates are running with just stickers and placards. To the really well-qualified this is just short of criminal.

It is for this reason The Observer believes in the importance of recommendations. Our list of preferred candidates in cases where lawyers' performances are unknown to us has been taken from the Detroit Bar Association recommendations. A good yard stick we think.

Next week The Observer will make local recommendations in all communities where there is a race. This recommendation is based on performance, not personalities. It comes as a result of following the performance of the candidates in the civic and political life where The Observer is a watchdog every week of the year, not just at election time.

An election is not a popularity contest and although the rascal may be the most charming and from a party standpoint has the better chance to win, this should not be the criteria, and is not with The Observer.

The Detroit Bar Association Advisory Committee has 79 members in its group which is chaired by George E. Bushnell, a Democrat and Richard C. Van Dusen, a Republican.

Suburban residents in Plymouth, Redford Township, Garden City, Livonia and Westland vote on Wayne County Circuit Judges and Probate Judges; in Farmington, Oakland County Circuit Court and Probate.

For Wayne County Circuit Court six will be nominated to fill three newly created vacancies bringing the total number of Circuit Court Judges to 27.

Given "outstanding" (their highest) for Circuit Court were Cornelia G. Kennedy (see story on page 3C) and James L. Ryan, who is presently the Justice of the Peace in Redford Township. We concur with this rating.

Only one challenger has filed for Probate Judge against three incumbents, all of whom are seeking reelection. Three are open. There is no primary race.

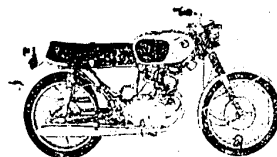
In Oakland County there are also 22 running for six seats in the Circuit Court primary with a final three Judgeships open in November.

We can strongly recommend Farrell E. Roberts who has been the State Senator, elected following the death of Paul Chandler in December 1954. Senator Roberts filled the Senate seat efficiently and used his knowledge of law toward strengthening the Appellate Court Legislation. We can also recommend William Beasley as a stable candidate and knowledgeable attorney who would wear the robes well.

Alice Gilbert, although in her early thirties is also a good candidate. She is presently Justice of the Peace in Bloomfield Township.

The Probate Judge in Oakland County is a new position for Farmington residents to vote on and there is one to be elected for an eight year term.

Barry M. Grant filed petitions from every township and city in Oakland County and is the former assistant prosecuting attorney in Oakland County with an extremely good reputation.



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