

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne 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.

Death on a Motorcycle

The rash of motorcycle deaths in the Observer Newspaper Group circulation area in the past few months very definitely points to a need for legislation.

The toll call now reads: two in Plymouth, two in Livonia, three in Farmington, two in Garden City and one in Redford Township—all within a matter of five or six months.

We don't have the slightest idea of what step should be taken to correct this situation but the fact that nine have been killed in motorcycle accidents, six in the past three weeks, in an indication that something is wrong.

Most of the dead were teenagers or young adults. Each had an urge to drive and ride a motorcycle and all were killed in accidents that in some strange fashion appear to follow a pattern.

Asked some time ago about the danger of motorcycles on the highways, Livonia Police Chief James Jordan stated that he believed many of the accidents were caused because the motorcyclist was riding in a blind spot behind cars.

"We have discovered that many of the accidents are caused because the motorist doesn't see the motorcycle either in the side view or rear view mirrors," said Chief Jordan. "Then the car driver signals for a turn with the motorbike

close behind and the motorcyclist can't move fast enough to avoid an accident.

"And all of this time the car driver isn't aware of the motorcycle because it is in a blind spot behind his car and is completely hidden from view. I believe there should be some laws passed making it mandatory for the motorcyclist to drive in such a way that they are completely in view of the car driver."

R.T.T.

God Bless 'Em

The American Field Service is a non-profit organization without political or secular affiliation. It is supported by private contributions. Having served as a volunteer ambulance corps in the First and Second World Wars, the AFS started its present program of international scholarships in 1947 as the most effective way to promote international understanding in peacetime.

If the AFS can do it—and it should like a mighty good thing to do—the word, here is a group that is doing more than just talking about peace—it is doing something!

BILL GAIL

To Forewarn Is To Forearm



FRANK MAGUIRE

Reader Favors Additional Shopping Area in Westland

Editor

This letter is in reference to the current argument over the Birch Hill Golf Course in Westland. The proposal to rezone the area for a large shopping and apartment complex by the Lundblad Co. is a sound one. It is sound not only from a financial point of view but, also, because it is sorely needed by the general public in this area.

I propose that a thorough, comprehensive survey be taken to determine the will of the majority of home owners. Such a survey, be it door to door or phone to phone, is a far better way to play fair with all the residents concerned, whether a professional planner is brought into the picture or not.

I have read the comments of Bruce Foulk, chairman of the "Save Birch Hill Committee," with great interest in both the Observer Newspaper and the Guardian Review. Mr. Foulk says the new business area would create a traffic headache. That is doubtful. A well planned shopping area, of such large dimensions as the \$10 million

one proposed, takes heavy traffic into consideration from the very beginning and allows for a free flow. Not to mention the fact that Cherry Hill and Merriman, right years ago, and there's plenty of room to do it.

Mr. Foulk also maintains that the new shopping center would hurt a surrounding smaller shopping areas, and that some stores in the smaller centers are already vacant. He has hit the proverbial nail right on the head.

The surrounding shopping centers most assuredly are small—and thoroughly inadequate. That's exactly why Hill and Merriman, right people travel miles out of their way to larger communities, in other communities instead of their own. That's why some of the stores are vacant now, have been vacant for a long time, and unfortunately will continue to be vacant. These small centers were a fine idea when the communities were also small. But the residential areas have grown at a tremendous rate, and the smaller districts simply are no longer able to serve the needs of the public.

Mr. Foulk and his committee advocate rezoning the area as agricultural and using it for public recreation. Now long stretches of green, trees, furrure creations, and recreation are a grand thing and I would be the last to knock it. This area, in fact all of Michigan, has wonderful recreational facilities and has done a splendid job of retaining its natural beauty. No doubt more of it will be welcome. But this particular area has another pressing, vital need due to the pathetic lack of a large, well organized business district. And the site at Cherry Hill is a far greater service to the area than any other across the street from Garden City's park, is the only logical, centrally located and generally convenient place for such a district.

May I repeat that the Planning Commission would do a far greater service in solving this issue by determining the will of the majority. Count all heads by taking a wide-spread, unprejudiced survey.

MRS. DORIS GRABILL
Garden City

OMBUDSMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we will do 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,

Why won't the Redford Twp. Police Chief let the Civil Defense Police work the traffic light at School and Birch Dally Rd. even after getting an okay from the Supervisor's Office? The light must be worked manually at times due to the increased race track traffic. His reason is that the C.D. Police are unarmed. This makes no sense.

We already work as carnival guards and at high school dances and sports events etc. unarmed and incidentally without pay. The regular police officers don't want the traffic light duty because they are already working a lot of overtime due to vacations and the extra traffic detail near the Redford Union High school.

Why not give the C.D. Police a chance to make an extra buck working the light (the race track picks up the tab) if for no other reason than in appreciation for the time and energy these men have already donated to the Township? Please withhold my name.

A REDFORD TWP.
C.D. POLICEMAN

DEAR C.D. POLICEMAN:
You are right. Redford Township Police Chief Hudson is not high on Civil Defense Police doing the job of the regular police force. In fact he is wholeheartedly against it. If you are interested in pursuing the C.D. po-

lice handling the race track

traffic lights, your recourse is to petition the Township Supervisor and must abide by action taken by the your C.D. force, requesting Township Board.

— ADVERTISEMENT —

NATURALLY YOURS

by Nina Parker

Your child may have odd eating habits due to an unbalanced body chemistry. In consumer's bulletin 1963 yearbook physicians say that feeding of milk, while very nutritious for some people may create allergic conditions in others, producing one or more of the following: pollen or anemic, bluish cast over eyes, carpal spasm, irritability, constipation, poor appetite, too thin or too heavy.

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OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

"It may sound funny but it has something to do with the full moon."

This was Livonia Detective Sgt. Russell McQuaid's explanation to The Observer as to why the rash of indecent exposure cases and attempted and successful molesting in Livonia and vicinity this past week.

Chief of Detectives in Livonia, Captain Robert Turner, substantiated this theory.

"It is important to apprehend these 'kooks' as quickly as possible," Sgt. McQuaid added, "because so many times their sickness becomes progressive and where they are just content, at first, to frightening their victims, later they must grab them and often, finally, only bodily harm will satisfy their maladjusted minds."

"What can we as parents do about this," was our question of the police officers as well as of Captain Fredrick Davids of the Michigan State Police. "Should we talk to our children about this type of person; how do we keep from frightening and yet warning children?"

All the police officers agreed it was important to make children aware of the danger of going to the car of any stranger.

They all agreed it was important to attempt to school children not to panic; to try and get the license number of those who attempt to waylay them; to give as accurate a description as possible; and first and foremost to go directly home and tell their parents.

It is important for the parents to set an example and calmly, but swiftly, call the police. The point that angers police the most is the many parents who, because they do not want to get involved, fail to alert police to the possibility of this type of maniac roving the streets. The police say parents are doing themselves more harm by not getting involved because the guilty person often commits the same crime in an area where he can seemingly get away with it.

The most common method of these maladjusted is to ask a child for directions. Police caution children to give directions from where they are standing. They can become suspicious if the man asking for directions asks them to come closer to the car.

They should not hesitate at that point to get the license number, if possible, and go directly home with their information.

Police encourage children not to play in the large shopping area parking lots, to play in two or larger groups, and under all circumstances to stay away from strangers.

No matter how placid the neighborhood might seem in the early warm days of spring and summer and even fall, parents should not allow their children to be out without checking on them every hour or so. And certainly little ones should not play in parks or vacant fields without older children or parent being around or at least within shouting distance.

The increase in the sex deviate crimes has increased so alarmingly across the nation, that new legislation is under discussion in Washington. In Michigan the increase of forcible rape is up 36.4 per cent over 1964 and this is among the teen age group. It's children who are the victims.

The new legislation being studied is to establish a centralized information system whereby the quick exchange of information between law enforcement agencies could lead in the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals.

Sex offenders are repeaters. They often move from community to community and even from state to state until they are caught. In a matter of minutes, through a centralized information system, the habitual offenders could be watched.

In addition to a centralized system in each state, there would also be an inter-state check-out system, if the legislature passes.

Modern computers could give descriptions, clues within minutes, and then police can apprehend these people, get them off the street and allow citizens to breathe easier.

Other same centralized information is being studied for the crimes such as auto thieves, burglars, narcotic users, potential murderers.

Perhaps with such a system the Oswalds, the Specks would not have been taken the toll they did.

Write your Congressman encouraging his study of this legislation. It is one constructive thing we as parents can do.

Reader

Neighbors' Innocent

Editor:

In regards to the report of a robbery of July 24 reported in the July 27 issue of The Observer, I wish to state that as owner of the Gourmet Bakers and J&J Catering, I wish to apologize to the young neighborhood boys who were accused of break-

ing and entering the building and robbing a cash box. These boys have offered their help many times and have always been very gentlemanly.

Any other statements previously made to the press have little or no grounds.

MARGARET M. JOHNSON

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BEST SERVICE IN TOWN — PICK-UP AND DELIVERY

Reader Speaks Up

Hanky-Panky?

Editor:

I live on Worman in Redford Township where James Bonadeo wants to build some apartments and my husband and I don't have any interest one way or another.

The other night two other couples and ourselves were in a local bar having a drink and Mr. Bonadeo came in and sat down with us. After a while we were kidding him about the apartments and Mr. Fitzgerald from Supervisor Jack McDonald's office came in and called Mr. Bonadeo to the bar and we could hear him telling Mr. Bonadeo to stop meddling in politics and Mr.

Bonadeo just laughed.

Then Mr. Fitzgerald seemed to get very mad and told Mr. Bonadeo that the Board would never give him any apartments because Paul (Bonadeo) didn't want him to have any and they were in debt to him.

We asked Mr. Bonadeo about it afterward but he wouldn't tell us anything. We think there is something funny going on in Redford Township and your paper ought to find out.

TOWNSHIP RESIDENT
Dear Township Resident:
The Observer has advised Mr. Bonadeo to take his apartment discriminated against on apartment buildings to court

of law where any hanky-panky would come to light.

For Correcting Chapter Editor:

I want to thank The Observer for its outstanding coverage of the proposed Garden City change. We have found that when the voters are informed properly they respond quickly to the call of duty. Let us not feel that all efforts to live the city of Garden City's new change is lost. The charter may be revised and the petition which was not acceptable can be corrected.

SUSAN HILL
Garden City
(Candidate for Council)

Up from the ashes of defeat — to what?

W. W. JOGAR

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