

# 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.

## Playing Hookey?

This writer has been listening for many years to school officials who criticize citizens who don't vote at millage or bond issue elections for public schools or who don't take a more active role in their own child's school groups. But apparently, a double standard is used for their own school meetings.

Last week, a call was issued to all 43 public school districts in the county to attend a meeting in Nankin Mills' Ford School in Westland to discuss the problem of financing public schools. David Goetz, Nankin Mills school board member who proposed the session, arranged for packets of information, pencils, and sheets of note

paper at all of the 96 seats. But most of it was wasted effort.

Only 17 persons from six school districts, Wayne County Intermediate School District, and an officer of the Michigan Association of School Boards were present. Admittedly, there were many districts whose board members and superintendents were on vacation or had other meetings that night. Redford Union and Wayne were the only districts from our area who were represented.

But it seems that many of the Wayne County school officials who could have been at the meeting should get a bad mark on their attendance portion of their report cards. —LEONARD POWER

## Just Chattin' Lesson Demonstrated

Education isn't always derived from textbooks. There are times when the real lessons of life are taught in the most unusual places — far removed from a school room. One would never expect to be taught one of life's greatest lessons on a hot, muggy evening in the city room of a small daily newspaper. Yet, the recent unpleasantness experienced by some of our top officials with various arms of the law, calls to mind the teachings of my first editor, who was a stickler for printing the truth — at any cost.

He used to take great delight in gathering our young staff about him and he'd spend hours lecturing to us on what he always termed, "the greatest profession in the world."

"There are only two favors you can do in this business," he emphasized. "You can keep stories out of the paper that should be printed — or you can have your way in type, and in either case you would be wrong."

We used to listen very attentively to this colorful, old editor, for he looked upon us as his family. He had hand-picked each member of the staff and he wanted so much to see us succeed.

But we often wondered what would happen if some of his own family figured in some form of shocking news? Would he carry out his own teaching?

I'll never forget the night we got the answer. It was one of those hot, sticky nights in August in what had been the front bedroom of the old home that had been converted into our newspaper office. It was before the modern convenience of air conditioning and the humidity was terrible.

Suddenly, the phone rang. It was the night chief of the police department report-

ing that our old editor's son, the star pitcher of the home town baseball team and an idol to many of the youngsters, had just figured in an auto accident in which several persons were injured.

It was a routine report for the police chief. But it felt like a bomb in our staff office. What would we do with the story? "The old gent might explode if we printed it," the city news editor remarked. "But I will keep the notes — just in case."

We all settled back to routine work and hardly noticed, about an hour later, that the old editor had walked into the office.

He walked over to the city desk and asked, "what did you do with the story about my son's accident?"

"Nothing yet," the city editor answered. "Why not," the old gent asked. "He's no better than anyone else."

With that he stormed into his private little office and we soon heard the clatter of the keys on his typewriter.

A short time later, he walked over to the city desk, handed in the story of his son's accident, along with a picture. "I want this in a prominent position on the front page," he ordered. "Just to show our readers that we print all the news. And it will help all of our young fellows when you are asked to favor some one by not printing a story that should be printed."

"We all heaved a sigh. He had put us out of what we thought was a tickling situation. "I have no respect for folks in high places who evade or fracture our laws," and then try to hide behind the cloak of their office or their standing in a community."

"And they never will get any sympathy on this paper," he said. They never did. — W. W. EDGAR

## Burial Will Take Place...

Another nail went into the coffin last week, slowly sealing up the right of citizens to hold jobs without being forced to join a union.

Bus drivers, mechanics, cooks, custodians and stock clerks employed by the Wayne Community School District will be required to become union members if they want to work for the district.

This agreement on "union security" was signed last week by school officials and those of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 13, Local 1483.

It stipulates that "new employees hired on or after the execution of this agreement, upon completion of their probationary period shall as a condition of employment, become and remain members of the union during the life of this agreement."

To make sure, union members pay dues, the school district has agreed to a unique provision which states: "Each employee, who on the effective date of this agreement is a member of the union and has authorized deductions, shall, as a condition of employment, do so with the understanding the deductions shall continue for the length of the contract."

Livonia drove in a nail this summer with a union shop agreement with its non-teaching employees; Garden City put in another clincher with a pact with its employees, forcing union membership in order

to accept employment with the city. Other spikes are in throughout Michigan.

Will citizens in this area ever rebel at the dirty, dismal drab pine box into which we are being sealed?

Evidence to date, shows an unconcerned citizenry. It is only when some poor guy struggling to make ends meet, stands up and try to unite with him that he does not want to belong, that an outcry will be heard.

But who will listen? The right to work, which has been preserved nationally in 19 states, is coming closer and closer to the grave.

Does it sound morbid? It is! We citizens are allowing our city and school officials to surrender the meaning of our greatest union — The United States of America — to small ruling cliques.

If we don't want this to happen... Let's do something! Hop on down to your next school board meeting or city or township meeting and insist on an open shop.

Or, corner your school board members or municipal representatives and find out why they are wielding the hammer so vehemently as the lid is put on the pine box tighter and tighter.

And so — as a wind-up to this diatribe call to action, let us all stand and sing, "Oh, They Cut Down the Old Pine Tree."

— BILL GAIL

## REPORTER REPORTS EDITOR EDITORIALIZES LIVONIA RIDICULED MUCH ABOUT



## 250 Cards Brighten Girl's Life

Open Letter to Editor and Friends in Livonia:

It's so very hard to put into words our thanks for the response to Celeste's plea for postcards to Celeste while she was at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida (July 20).

Some of the loneliest days of our lives were spent there, but when your cards started coming, we knew someone was thinking of us. Celeste received well over 250 postcards. Even folks on vacation remembered her with a postcard, one family sent one while they were vacationing in Florida. I put them all in a scrapbook for her and she and I looked through them many times while she was recuperating.

To date she feels better and, although the operation may not be a success and we have new hope. Thanks again to each one of you and may God bless each of you.

Celeste's Mother,

RUTH E. BEAGAN

Livonia.

## Respect Must Be Taught

Since when, has it become a crime, to protect ones property? Why is a child always right? For two years I have put up with bicycles, bicycles, wagons, and what have you, taking advantage of our

driveway. Children from another block, frequently racing thru the front lawn. From the back yard, I have cleaned out rotten potatoes, empty baby jars and spoons, and other debris. I have painted the fence and reinforced the one post to keep it from collapsing as the children are persistent in climbing it, and for a reprimand we have earned such names as Fats, and Big Fat Bully.

There are no alleys, but we have never complained about the stinking garbage, in that hot spell, that drove us in, nor the persistent burning of trash, and smoke permeating our yard; that the neighbor hid from his view never complained about the situation, but recently had words.

A boy living two blocks away and another were on top of the fence. I asked them to get off, they just smirked, and had to walk over to the fence before they got off. A woman, not their mother, jumped at me verbally, and asked me if I never was a child, and in the next breath said the article I wrote to your paper (Home Repairs Are Costly) nothing to do with children, said it was rotten and wished we would move.

It's a laugh! We do not bother any one, my husband is away at work all day and

I am at home with my two dogs. We do wish to protect our investment. If it is a sin to keep your nose to the grindstone in keeping up ones property by cutting the grass every week and by weeding and pruning and wanting things to look lovely, then we have committed a great crime. I might mention, all the yards in back of us, are unfenced across three or four yards plus an empty lot, there are three sets of swings, teeter totters, swimming pool, everything to amuse the children.

A lot of screaming all day long, all around, so why an attraction for our fence? And a neighbor's wishful thinking that we depart from the neighborhood. I am most surprised since the woman works for the school board and all the harassment comes from her side of the fence. I might add, "Yes," I was a child, but not bent on destruction or disrespect to my elders.

JOSEPHINE GOUGH

Livonia

## Two More Weeks To Register

## 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:

We, as one family, plus our neighbors, would like street lights in Rosedale Meadows (between south of West Chicago, north of Joy Road, between Merriman and Farmington).

We are hoping others will see this and start some action in our area.

Residents in ROSDALE MEADOWS

Dear Rosedale Meadows Residents:

Glad you asked Ombudsman about that because we have had several phone requests too. Please know it takes at least five months (if all goes well).

1—You write a letter to the City Council with your request. (A petition with many names would be more effective.)

2—City Council brings it up at a study meeting.

3—Following meeting it comes up on the regular agenda where there is a vote. And likely it will be referred to City Engineer for him to prepare cost assessment per lot. (Probably about seven dollars a lot assessment.)

4—A public hearing will be held. (Herein lies the swiftness or delay of the action. If there is no opposition, the rest of the way will likely be great greased — if there is opposition three other things that could happen: a request turned down, b. request approved, c. a referendum vote might be held in the area affected.)

5—Results of the Engineer's report brought to a Council study meeting.

6—Again appears on the regular agenda for the final

decision.

7—If approved assessment district is established and contract signed with Detroit Edison. They have been installing street lights approximately two months after contract is signed. If turned down you can forget it, or start all over, hoping in the

meantime to convince the opposition.

Don't be discouraged by the many steps. Over a quarter of the City has street lights. If the request gets bogged down and we can be of any further assistance feel free to write your Ombudsman.

—ADVERTISEMENT—

## NATURALLY YOURS

by Nina Parker

Some of us are fortunate enough to not underestimate the opinion of our ancestors. Our grandmothers used to tell us to, "eat your carrots because they are good for your eyes." We didn't need any proof, we just believed her.

Raw carrot juice is a resistant to infections, doing most efficient work in conjunction with the adrenal glands. It helps prevent infections of eyes and of the throat as well as of the tonsils and the respiratory organs generally. It also protects the nervous system and is unequalled for increasing vigor and vitality.

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Come in Saturday, September 3rd for free samples of refreshing carrot juice and our Flourless Carrot Cake along with other tasty snacks.

Today's Recipe

FLOURLESS CARROT CAKE

5 eggs, separated

1 cup brown sugar

1 tsp vanilla

1/4 tsp salt

Lightly beat egg yolks and mix with sugar, vanilla, and salt. Add and stir in the grated carrots, ground almonds, and wheat germ. Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into mixture. Bake in spring form at 350° for 1 hour.

Ask about our nutritional interview for a Better Balanced Body Chemistry.



## OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

You will never know how it feels unless you have been the victim yourself. To have everyone having a good laugh at your expense when you got caught in a situation that blew out of context before you knew you were in trouble.

It is particularly in poor taste when it is in the printed word. A reporter may be in a "fun 'n games" mood, but it can boomerang and cause malicious harm.

This was driven home to me this week by the story of a Cub reporter from Detroit assigned to cover the Livonia scene.

Actually it wasn't the story of Mayor Harvey Moelke having an altercation with a Livonia policeman that caused the harm to the City. After all most of us could identify. When we are stopped it is usually our first question, "What did I do officer?"

It was logical Mayor Moelke would get hot when the officer manifested a wall of silence over the misdemeanor — and in true Moelke fashion he persisted, insisted and resisted.

Everyone who knows the Mayor knows he has this personality trait which is also bestowed equally on builders wanting to put up high rises or utilize small lots in Livonia. The fruits of the man's three R's will be reaped for years to come in this area.

Hizoner doesn't turn off his character when he is doing other things like campaigning, fighting councilmen, playing golf, or in this case, passing three cars in the right lane. He didn't think he was wrong.

He RESISTED the charge, has INSISTED on the ticket and will PERSIST the matter in court.

Personally I've spent four hours with him trying to convince me on an issue on which we differed... and he never gave up. Finally I took refuge in the ladies room. Perfect asylum.

The Detroit News, last week did a great disservice to the City of Livonia by taking the incident and giving it the importance of an editorial. It was a scathing, ridiculing editorial berating a directive requiring policemen to consult headquarters whenever they stop an official to issue a traffic ticket.

No such directive exists. We who have our stake in Livonia, make our mortgage payments, pay taxes for our businesses, resent being put on the map by anyone, let alone an outside force, for being a keystone cop climate.

Livonia has the finest schools in western Wayne County, the strictest building code, and the most progressive City Planner and Industrial Development program.

Already the let's-put-Livonia-down article has caused concern. It has reached the ears of an industrialist who is considering moving his plant to Livonia from the east side.

He wonders if it is prudent with such an imprudent directive protecting officials, guilty or not.

The "directive" was the motivation of the Mayor who lost his temper in trying to get the young officer to call the station, and failing, lost his temper.

Several years ago when John Dooley was on the Council he was stopped one night on his way to an important Council meeting for having one headlight. He did not think his delay was necessary and suggested to the Mayor, city officials should have the courtesy of having a contact with the officer in charge, because often the official could be the victim of a policeman with a grudge. The Mayor and Council are in a disciplinary position with the Police and Fire Departments.

No such directive exists and it should not. The U.S. way of life is based on sharing equal treatment under the law. We do not have Kings with divine rights and if anything the American public resents more, it is anyone so acting.

There would have been no editorial material had the writer checked his facts and a City might have been saved being identified with "lawlessness and disorder."

Even if it had been factual it was unreasonable and over-rated. And if the Detroit News wants to give Livonia some ink — how about an editorial sometime on Livonia being the only City in a century to stand up and say "yes, we want parks" — and tax themselves another mill to do it, so acting.

Note:  
Now that you've registered, gotten your classes, brought your books, checked out that cute freshman, and memorized the alma mater, there is just one thing left to do.  
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