

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

PHILIP H. POWER

Publisher

DALE O. PERIN

Controller

RICHARD T. THOMPSON

Managing Editor

Member Michigan Press Association, Suburban Press Foundation

RUDOLPH MAZURSKY

Advertising Director

FRED J. LEVINE

Classified Advertising Manager

FRED J. WRIGHT

Circulation Director

Page 8-A (GC-W-6B)

Wednesday, July 5, 1965

Tip of Hat to Livonia Police For Road Aids

Hat off to the Livonia Police Department. It is doing something to ease the traffic jams caused by the closing of Farmington Road from Eight Mile to Five Mile by the Wayne County Road Commission for improvements.

The closing funneled traffic across Merriman and Hubbard Roads to the extent that one could hardly get out or into Hubbard from Six Mile Road which doesn't have a traffic light.

Made aware of the situation, the Livonia Police Department has men stationed at Hubbard and Six and Hubbard and Five at peak traffic times.

Motorists have to appreciate this. One can get in and out of Hubbard within a normal length of time and not get held up for as many as 15 minutes trying to move into the Six Mile traffic.

The situation is much different in Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth where it is almost worth one's life to try to move into the main streets and highways from a side street.

Phoenix Road, at Northville Road has developed into a tremendous bottleneck. It's about time for Plymouth Township officials to demand that the Sheriff's Patrol do something to relieve this situation.

If We Belong In COG, Let's Get On The Ball

Governmental units in the Observer Newspaper Group circulation area should make up their minds whether they are going to participate in the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments or not.

It doesn't make much sense to send representatives to a series of pre-organizational meetings at district points and then completely ignore the Council at sessions where important business is taking place — such as last week's session in Southfield.

The Plymouth community was represented by the City, Township and school board at every meeting until last week's meeting where the bylaws were adopted.

The same is true of the City of Livonia, Garden City, City of Farmington and others. Only Plymouth Township, Redford Township, Farmington Township, Livonia School Board, Nankin Mills school district and Farmington School Board had delegates present.

If you have been one of those stalled at Phoenix Road while traffic moves merrily along Northville Road, then you know just how it feels to sit there for 10 or 15 minutes trying to move left or right. It's almost an impossibility.

The City of Plymouth has more traffic going through the main streets now than ever before and hasn't done a thing to correct jams.

Starkweather at Main is one of the worst intersections in the entire area. City officials point out that it isn't a high accident intersection — our answer is that it is only because drivers sit and wait, fuming every minute of the delay.

The ultimate is to have a long wait at the intersection, finally make a turn onto Starkweather and then find traffic lined up for blocks by a long, slow-moving freight train. This happens every day, and still nothing is being done.

What with a Centennial celebration and the detours caused by the closing of Sheldon Road, we still have a strong feeling that the City of Plymouth is not living up to its responsibilities. Do we have to have a series of accidents at Starkweather and Main to make the city fathers realize there is a problem?

—R. T. Thompson

Famous Words

The ambition of us all should be that of a pacesetter — every day in whatever we do. Someone is always watching us, seeking to imitate our good moves and our triumphs.

—G. Adams

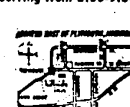
When I'm getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say — and two-thirds thinking about him and what he is going to say.

—Abraham Lincoln

Gourmet Nite

Every Wednesday

- Complete Smorgasbord
- 38 Ft. Long Table
- Prime Rib One of 60 Items
- Complete Dinner \$4.25
- Children 6-12 Half Price
- Serving from 5:00-9:30



—THE LATEST FROM APPOINTMENT REST.

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

TODAY IS July 5.

Which, as I understand it, is one day after July 4th.

Which, in turn, was our Independence Day.

By now, the politicians will

have made their speeches, full of rotund phrases and marketable sentiments.

Abroad, champagne will have been drunk at American embassies around the world by diplo-

mats, experts at concealing beneath a bland face their own calculations of our stance and intent.

Out here in Observerland, parades will have gone by, leaving their debris of hot dog wrappers,

cigarette butts, and empty paper cups.

People will have relaxed at home over the long weekend and will have just started to put on the second dose of sun burn oil.

And the country will have paused for just a moment before plunging into the All-Star Game and summer.

SO IS THIS what the Fourth is all about?

I think not.

I think there must be something more.

Something like a recollection of the past. Like remembrance of that little group of men, so long ago, who decided that they wanted a different sort of country — and were willing to do something about it.

Something like a pause for thought about two words that are among the most misused in our language: freedom and independence.

Maybe the ideas of freedom and independence that men had back on that first Independence Day were different from what they are now. But they had something in common.

And it might be a good idea to think about just what these two key ideas in the history of our country meant then and what they mean now. Particularly on July 4th.

ALL OF WHICH suggests that in our Fourth of July celebrations, we have tended to concentrate on the form and forget the substance.

Kinda like what's happened to Xmas. Ooops, Christmas.

My secretary, who is a thoughtful type, said the other day that some of her kids were asking her what Memorial Day meant.

For anyone who went through World War I, Memorial Day means an awful lot — something about men and war, freedom and history.

But to a lot of people, now, it just means another vacation.

To be abstract about it, occurrences become events because they have meaning. For example, the Fourth of July is an event because of its meaning. On that day, this country declared its independence from Great Britain.

Meaning comes about in a lot of ways, but often it's through memory. And, unfortunately, memory is not easy.

But without it, all we have are long weekends and a few old hot dog wrappers blowing the long, dusty streets.

Refreshing But Idea Didn't Take

One of the most frequently heard cries at rezoning hearings before local planning commissions and city councils is usually voiced by neighboring residents who yelp about how a proposed apartment project or shopping center would result in lowering their property values.

However, a refreshing change — almost — came about before the Garden City Council last week during discussion on a 24-unit apartment building.

One homeowner said that it is no concern of the City Council whether the owner of the proposed apartment site makes a profit on his land or not. I agree. The wheels of free enterprise will turn without the involvement of local government.

But later in the meeting, another Garden City homeowner speaking on the same apartment project expressed his concern about the proposed buildings causing a decrease in the value of his own property.

But I guess it depends on whose dollar is being gored.

—Leonard Poger



Redford Township Voters Should Stop No Union-No Work Tactics

How would you like to work for Redford Township and be told you would have to join a union to keep your job?

How would you like to be working in South Redford's school district and be forced to pay monthly dues of \$8 in order to hold your position?

Such things can happen in Redford and may unless citizens step forward to make their feelings known.

The Police Officers Association is asking that all members of the bargaining unit be required to join their union and that the township "shall be required to deduct dues for membership from the wages of each member employee."

Bargaining with Teamsters is now going on at the township level and with South Redford School District officials.

Teamsters are demanding that

all school employees affected by the contract be made to join 30 days after being hired or else pay an equal amount in lieu of dues.

It may seem of little concern to those of us who do not work for the government, but it should.

Do we want to pass the reigns of government over to the unions or are citizens to remain in the driver's seat?

What happens to a loyal public employee, who wants to obey the state law forbidding strikes, ordered to go on strike by a union he joined only because he was forced to join?

How many potential public employees will not accept public service because they believe that membership in a union requires more meetings to attend, money paid out in tribute to union leaders who have achieved a sinecure?

Many municipal and state organizations have capitulated to the union-shop demands, entirely ignoring the tax-paying citizen who believes the United States of America is the greatest union and improved conditions are brought about at the ballot box.

Just look about and see what is happening when unions, such as the Detroit Police Officers Association, start wagging the dog.

When this happens, governments are in for a heap of trouble.

The way to prevent more woe, is to make sure that membership in a government employee's union is done voluntarily and not by force.

All governments, representing all taxpayers, should not give away the rights of each citizen!

We have just finished observing Independence Day, celebrating our freedom, let us not give it away again.

—Bill Gall

Famous Words

Management stands in the middle of a triangle. At the lower right corner is Labor, with a rope around Management's right leg, yanking for raises. At the lower left corner is Capital, with a rope around Management's left leg, yanking for dividends. The top corner, the Consumer corner, the Market corner, is worse. It has a rope around Management's neck like a noose, yanking forever for bigger bargains.

—Fred C. Crawford

An Oldtimer Is Shocked By Redford Appearance

Like many residents of the western suburbs, this writer emerged from Redford High School and used to shop the fine business section along Grand River Avenue between Lahser and Six Mile Roads, northwest of the school.

So one recent evening, we took a ride past the old stamping grounds, although they're not really so old.

It was appalling. What used to be national chain stores, bright drug stores, fine clothing stores — these had turned into low-grade schlock shops; in one stretch, there were no less than seven vacant store fronts.

A physical deterioration? It wasn't evident, yet. A population change? Maybe in other parts of town, but it certainly wasn't the case here. Poor merchandising? Possibly, but it's not logical that every businessman would go down hill at once.

Probably it was what the city planners call "strip commerce." That means one store after another, side by side, on both sides

of the street, with only street parking.

Businessmen like the idea of being on a thoroughfare with traffic (translation: "customers") going by. It works, as long as the volume of cars is moderate.

But in the days when practically everyone has a car, and there are more people, the moderate stream of traffic turns into a raging torrent. It's as easy to stop-and-shop as it was to stop a raft on the Colorado River and take a stroll up the side of the Grand Canyon.

The shopping center — a compact grouping of stores with ample parking — is suburbia's answer.

But what of the older "strip commerce" sections? Livonia's City Planning Department has proposed a set of answers.

One idea is to limit certain kinds of commercial development along the "mile" roads — the ones of prevention method.

The pound of cure proposal for existing "strip commerce" is to turn the thoroughfares into five-lane limited-access highways bordered by one-way service drives. These service drives would be separated from the highway by a landscaped strip; at convenient points, there would be entrance and exit drives.

There is vastly more to the proposal, but this isn't the place to go into details, and this isn't the time to give it a blind endorsement.

We will go this far, however: We like the city planners' analysis of the problem, and we hope they're on the right track.

It wasn't so many years ago that Grand River Avenue shopping center near Redford High was prosperous.

—Tim Richards

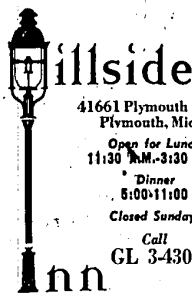
CHUCK MATSON



- Life Insurance
- Group Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Annuities
- Pension Plans

NEW YORK LIFE Insurance Company

17000 West 8 Mile Road, Southfield, 356-9480



41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Mich.

Open for Lunch 11:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

Dinner 5:00-11:00

Closed Sundays

Call GL 3-4301