

JUST CHATTIN'

Imagine! Fish Are Causing Land Rush In Michigan

BY W. W. EDGAR

SHE JUST sat there shrugging her shoulders, and shaking her head—and then remarked: "I've never seen anything like this. People coming around—absolute strangers—asking you if you'd like to sell your property. Everybody around here has been asked about property. And just think it's all because of those salmon that are now being caught in this area."

The speaker was an old friend who had moved with her family from Detroit and had settled down on an 85-acre farm near Bear Lake on the west side of the state to get away from the hustle and bustle of a big city.

We had stopped off for a friendly visit during a color tour of the western part of the state and fish was the last thing we had expected to be the topic of conversation. But, somehow, it came up when we mentioned that it was most unfortunate those fishermen were lost in the storm in nearby Lake Michigan several weeks ago.

"It was terrible," our friend admitted, "but we have had nothing but excitement around here ever since it became known that the salmon were biting. You know, you went on, 'the state planted those fish and I don't think the officials ever expected anything like this.'"

She sat silent for a moment or two and then continued.

"It was wonderful to help the fishermen and that would help business all over. But no one ever expected the fish would bring about a land rush—and that's just what we have now. From what I hear some of the people who are looking for property are offering all kinds of prices. And I wouldn't be surprised if some of the farms around here aren't sold and converted into subdivisions."

When it was called to her attention that the salmon wouldn't stay in one area . . . that they would swim their way into the various streams and soon be in many parts of the state, she just shrugged her shoulders again.

"Maybe so," she finally confided, "but they are here right now. I guess that's what counts. Then, sitting up and looking at us with blazing eyes, she said:

"You know what I heard—and it's the main talk around here now—Jackie Gleason, the TV star, has a group of men scouring the area for property. It is supposed to be the Jackie Gleason Enterprises and they want all the property they can get."

Then she repeated, "I've never seen anything like this . . . people just being pestered to sell their property—and all because of those salmon."

It was a bit unusual and certainly unexpected. But the unrest and excitement was just another indication of the explosion taking place in all sections of Michigan.

After leaving the Bear Lake area there were other signs of the mass shifting of population and not all of it is being caused by the new coho salmon.

IN MOST every highway and byway we encountered the transporting of mobile homes to the west and northwest sections of the state. In some instances there were so many on the road one easily could have imagined that it was a display being moved to some exposition. But it wasn't.

The parade of mobile homes furnished evidence of a new trend in the state to get away from high taxes, costly homes, and crowded communities. And, in many cases, it was a movement of senior citizens who seem to have found a way to live a life of ease in retirement at a low cost.

This new way of life is most interesting. The mobile homes can be bought for modest sums, compared to the cost of new conventional homes today. Then, more and more areas are opening up to furnish space for the mobile home for rental basis. The rent is low and the high cost of living is mastered.

"I pay \$34 a month rent for the space," one of these senior citizens confided, "and you can't beat that. My taxes in the city would be a lot higher."

"I have another spot in Florida for the winter. So we spend the winter in the south and the summers up here—and all I do is rent space."

"I don't even move the mobile home any more. I have a smaller trailer in Florida and we can afford to live a bit cramped for a few months—just to have a place like this here in Michigan for the summer."

Sounds like these senior citizens have found a solution to the spiraling economy.

This solution—and the fish—have Michigan on the move. A short trip on the highways will offer all the proof you need.

Stronger Laws Asked

Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney William L. Cahalan is seeking five changes in Michigan's criminal laws to strengthen law enforcement.

At the same time, Cahalan opposes a provision of the proposed new state criminal code which would limit the force a policeman may use to stop a fleeing felon.

Cahalans' proposals are being considered by a State Senate Special Committee on Crime. In recent testimony before the committee, Cahalan made these points:

* Felony arrest powers should be extended to "high misdemeanors" such as aggravated assault, accosting and soliciting, gambling violations and all violations involving knives. This would make it possible for an officer to make an arrest when he has "reasonable cause" to believe a crime has been committed.

Under present law, the prosecutor stated, a policeman may be told that a certain person is carrying a knife, "but technically is not in a position to

EDITOR: They tell me that one shouldn't object too much if the name is spelled correctly. However, I cannot help but take issue with the name appearing in The Observer headlined "Schmidt Balks at School's Pledge for Help."

I have evidently not been reading the paper since they received. This procedure creates problems. I can't compromise my responsibility as a State Representative any more than I could as a Superintendent of Schools.

"It would appear that no one on your staff endeavored to check on my efforts, as a member of the Education Committee, to obtain more money for schools. I am sure, however, that you and your staff are aware that I was the only legislator representing Livonia who supported the effort for fiscal reform in voting for the income tax.

One statement in the article is not correct. "The Board asked him that some action be do about added school aid when the Legislature takes up the subject again."

The original question was raised in the State Senate, not next year's State Aid. State Aid for next year will be a subject of consideration next January to June or July. I demand that that some additional aid must be made available, and I will do all I can to achieve that goal.

My earlier experiences never permitted my giving the personnel of the schools the key to the school district purse. I was charged with a responsibility by the Board of Education to live within the budget. As an elected official I cannot give the key to the pocket book of the State to every unit of government.

If there is extra money not already appropriated, as predicted by some, I wonder how much? What will the unrest in our cities cost in Social Services and Civil Rights? What loss of revenue will occur from the lengthy labor disputes? What supplemental expenditures will be required in a number of areas?

How is your "crystal ball?"

LOUIS E. SCHMIDT
State Representative

(Editor's Note -- The Observer's emphasis was placed on Schmidt's statement that he would not spend money the state doesn't have, not on a particular session of the Legislature.)

EDITOR: A small but rather active and responsive gathering of PTA members attended the Wm. Grace PTA meeting Tuesday, Sept. 26. The opening meeting of 1987 was well attended and concerned mainly with four separate areas—health and safety, program planning, publicity and membership.

On the program, publicity, and membership groups really seemed to share similar ideas and problems and thus be inter-related. If there is an adequate and sound PTA program planned for the coming year the task of advertising and publicizing is relatively easy and an ample membership in the organization should be assured.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph, there was a small but active and responsive gathering at the William Grace PTA meeting. I believe that the William Grace PTA and all parent teacher associations could and should have something to offer and share with the community.

It seems hard to believe that

The Reader Speaks His Piece

parents and teachers do not attend these meetings as well as expected. They, the parents and teachers, are striving for the same goals and working towards the same direction and that is the development of the children into educated and responsible members of the community and solid citizens of this country.

The PTA is working for the best interests of the children and adults alike in the community. If parents and teachers care enough about the welfare of the children and themselves an adequate and meaningful PTA organization could easily be attained through active participation. This applies not only to the Wm. Grace PTA but to all PTA organizations everywhere.

In an age when the school and community are working together and will continue to work together even more so in the future to meet the needs of the community, an active participation seems essential for any type of success.

DANIEL OSOWSKI
Teacher-Vice President
William Grace PTA

EDITORS: Sometime in August, you printed an article about the "Spitster" group headed by Christian Powell, calling itself, "The Official 19th Congress-

ional District Republican Executive Committee". This article mentioned that the group welcomed the public at its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month in West Bloomfield Township Hall.

I accepted this invitation and attended the September meeting only to find out that only part of it was opened to the public and an "Executive" session was held afterward.

On Sept. 28, I went to West Bloomfield Hall only to find that the meeting place was changed to Christian Powell's office.

When I arrived there the meeting was in progress and I was told this was a private meeting.

It seems odd to me that after such a glowing report about desiring citizen participation in this group doesn't follow THRU and keep their meetings open to the public as stated.

This is the only way the public can find out their aims and goals are. Just what do they stand for?

Wondering,
RUTH KADELLA
P.S.: I tried to find out when

their next meeting would be held without success.

EDITORS' NOTE: Mrs. Kadella refers to Sunday, Editor Tim Richard's Aug. 20 column on "Conservatism a Go-Go."

The article on Farmington Township wanting to sell the parcel of land that was donated to the Township by Mr. and Mrs. Beals and Mr. and Mrs. Redcock for recreational purposes was a real shock to me.

I do not understand Mr. Joseph Brennan's statement that says in effect that as long as the parties who donated the land are no longer with us, we can do as we please with their donation.

Not only would this be a loss to the community because of this land's potential in the area of recreation, but it goes against the grain of every right-thinking citizen to think that a person's will could be tampered with and changed to fit those few in power.

Who does the Township and Mr. Brennan think they are to ignore the wishes of four dead people whose only wish was to give to this Township something which would last? Why was

this land never used as a recreational area? God knows, we have a great need for them. Is there a buyer in mind who wants this particular property for commercial reasons and personal gain? Is that why we never heard of this land? These are questions that should be answered for all of the citizens to read and question in their own minds.

I am sure that the Township has a moral as well as a civic duty to those taxpayers to develop their gift to this community as their wills stated and the Township has no reason to sell this land at all, under any circumstances since there is a dire need for recreational areas in Farmington Township.

It just makes me burn to know that there has been this land in the Township for years that could have been in use had for some reason or another the Township has not seen fit to make this public knowledge until now that they want to sell it. Why?

I am thoroughly against the Township and Mr. Brennan on this matter and I hope that more citizens will write and let the officials know how they feel. In hopes that the said sale of this land might be stopped.

MRS. L. VAN METER

Hearing Institute Seeks Ear Trumpet

ANN ARBOR — Have you found any old ear trumpets lately? Perhaps an ancient hearing aid in grandma's attic?

If so, it's wanted by the Kresge Hearing Research at The University of Michigan.

Dr. Merle Lawrence, director, is setting up an historical exhibit of early hearing devices. He's looking for equipment used to relieve hearing problems, such as hearing aids or ear trumpets. He also could use tuning forks, whistles, or other early testing equipment.

Persons wishing to contribute an item are requested to contact Dr. Lawrence at the institute in the U-M Medical Center, 1301 Ann Street, Ann Arbor.

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