

Apple Orchards Tell Of Township Long Ago



THIS TREE dates to the 1900's and produced two varieties of apples—Newton Pipton and Steel

Red. Hilmar Howard picks of this year's crop from the ancient tree.



NEW METHODS—This dwarf tree, which produces Golden Delicious apples, is one of the new type of apple trees. The tree will bear fruit in two to three years and reach its maturity in seven years instead of the 20 years required for the older varieties.



THE OLD—This is one of the oldest and the largest apple tree still standing in the township. In its prime the tree grew the Greening variety of apples. Today it stands by itself in a field near the I-96 expressway.

Ben Davis, Winter Snow, Arkansas Red, Steel's Red, Greening, Golden Russets....

These names used to be as familiar to the township residents as Kendallwood, Kimberley, Old Homestead and Canterbury Commons are today.

Those were some of the variety of apples grown in the township, when the area was one of the major apple producing spots in the state.

In the heyday of the industry (around World War I) there were approximately 46 different families maintaining orchards.

Today only the Button, Palacky and Reprint orchards are still producing and their days are numbered. The Button Orchard is currently under an option for possible residential development.

APPLE GROWING played such a role in the township's early growth and development that four of the township's roads are named for families that maintained orchards.

These roads are Halsted, Drake, Howard and Power.

The growers trucked their wares to Detroit via wagon on the old plank road, or transported the fruits to the railroad in Novi for shipment to the city market.

THE DECLINE of the industry actually pre-dated the skyrocketing of local land values in the 1950's.

According to Hillard Howard, whose family maintained an orchard, the advent of cold storage and modern freezer conditions after World War II was the most telling blow.

Added to this was the rising wage scale. No longer could a workman be hired to labor in the orchards for \$1 a day.

THE HILLS of the northwestern part of the township drew the growers to the area just before the turn of the century.

Varieties of apples grown were cooking types and could be stored throughout the winter either in the ground or in a cellar.

Today, these varieties are no longer popular with the consumer.

Thus another era of the township dies. However, when you pass the new Oakland Community College campus, Old Homestead and Kendallwood remember that not too long ago fertile apple orchards occupied these sites.

People Needed To Visit With Older Citizens

Have you ever longed for the "good old days" when elderly members of the family reminisced and told stories while everyone sat around listening? There are elderly people, now, who want little more than to have someone listen to them.

If you would enjoy the warmth that comes with this type of companionship, as a Friendly Visitor, call the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, division of United Community Services, 642-7272, 231 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

Communities throughout Oakland County will be saluting the Bureau during the week of Nov. 12 through 18 for its commendable services in placing volunteers in health, welfare agencies and hospitals.



UP ON THE LADDER—Hilmar Howard picks the current crop from one of the oldest apple trees still standing in the township. The tree grew the Steel Red variety of apples which was the king and always brought the best price in the heyday of the township's apple industry.

Alta Loma-Council Hearing Is Monday

Monday night's public hearing between the Farmington City Council and residents of the Alta Loma Subdivision is expected to be stormy.

The hearing on the necessity of proposed paving for Alta Loma, Moore Drive and Cass Court will begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

State Bird Group Taps Local Men

At the annual meeting of the Michigan Bird Banders Association, held in Lansing Nov. 4, two local men were elected to the offices of president and vice president.

Grover Niergarth, of Drake Road, Farmington Township, was elected president for his second term in office, and Neil Travis, of Rockwell Street, Farmington Township, was elected vice president.

The association is made up of over 100 members, who hold the distinction of being licensed bird banders. Bird banding is a scientific field of investigation. People who band birds must obtain a permit for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before they may capture and band birds. Niergarth is active in the Michigan Audubon Society as well as being a teacher at Schoolcraft College.

Travis is an active bander and member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society.

as "permanent capital improvement."

The subdivision association has embarked on a four-year program for capital improvement, but object to the city's proposal. The association charges that the city has been lax in road maintenance in Alta Loma and that it is the city's responsibility to improve and maintain the roads.

IN PREPARATION for Monday's hearing, the association has distributed a letter to its members asserting that the petitions circulated by the city "did not have the backing of the association."

The letter calls upon the residents to "withdraw their signatures."

City officials term the work

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2 Arrested With 'Pot'

Two 18-year-old Farmington Township youths who were arrested this week and charged with unlawful possession of narcotics are free under bond of \$1,000 each.

Ray Smith, of 28432 Westleigh, and James Prain, of 28501 Leaningtree, were said by Township police to have had marijuana in their possession when they were apprehended near their homes which lie

between 12 and 13 Mile Rds., east of Farmington Rd. They were arraigned before Township Justice Byron Walter who set their examinations for Nov. 24.

Assault Charge Brings \$25 Fine

Stephen Winters, of 34016 Blosswood, was fined \$25 plus \$10 court costs by Farmington Municipal Judge Michael J. Hand Nov. 14 on a charge of assault and battery.

Although Winters originally had entered a plea of not guilty, he reversed this to plead guilty in this week's court appearance. The charge originated in an incident Oct. 4 in the Farmington Plaza.

Arraigned Auto Charge

Two Detroiters accused of possession of a stolen car upon their arrest by Farmington city police were arraigned before Municipal Judge Michael J. Hand Monday and were ordered held on bond of \$2,500 each.

Richard A. Newton and Lawrence A. Jordan both pleaded not guilty, and the date for their court examination will be set later by Judge Hand.

They were arrested Sunday evening when police stopped their car in the vicinity of Powers and Valley View.

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